AFTERNOON KC
豊田徹也
TOYODA TETSUYA
珈琲時間
AFTERNOON KC604
珈琲時間
豊田徹也
9784063106046
1929979005528
雑誌 55725-04
ISBN978-4-06-310604-6
C9979 ¥552E（0）
講談社
定価：本体552円（税別）
アフタヌーンKC
講談社
cover design:tadashi hiramoto,seiko hashibashi (bird)

COFFEE TIME

TETSUYA TOYODA

AFTERNOON
KC604

珈琲時間

豊田徹也

講談社

Illuminati-Manga Presents

珈琲時間

Scanned by GGpX
Translated by laika
Edited by dh85
Quality Checked by dh85, GGpX & laika

豊田徹也
TOYODA TETSUYA

www.illuminati-manga.com
#illuminati-manga@irc.irchighway.net

Contents

Chapter 01 Whatever I Want

Chapter 02 Cappuccino Kid

Chapter 03 Currant

Chapter 04 Robot Detective

Chapter 05 KIKI The Pixy

Chapter 06 Hate To 5ee You Go

Chapter 07 Late Night+1

Chapter 08 Little Girl Blue

Chapter 09 Where Are You

Chapter 10 Riding On The Waves Of Winter

Chapter 11 Giraffes

Chapter 12 CHOPPED TOMATO PUREE

Chapter 13 The Tanaka Book Cafe

Chapter 14 Dreams

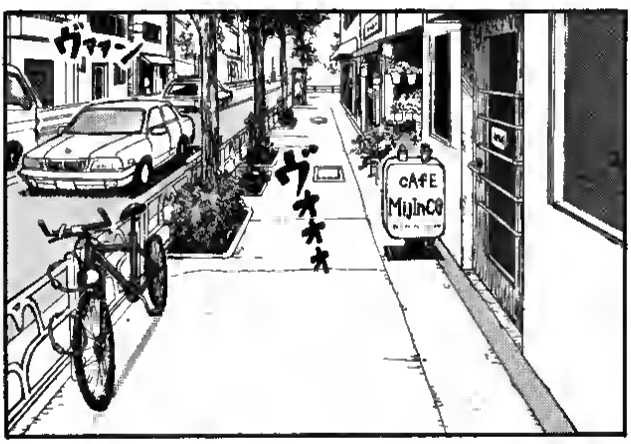
Chapter 15 Lost In The Flood

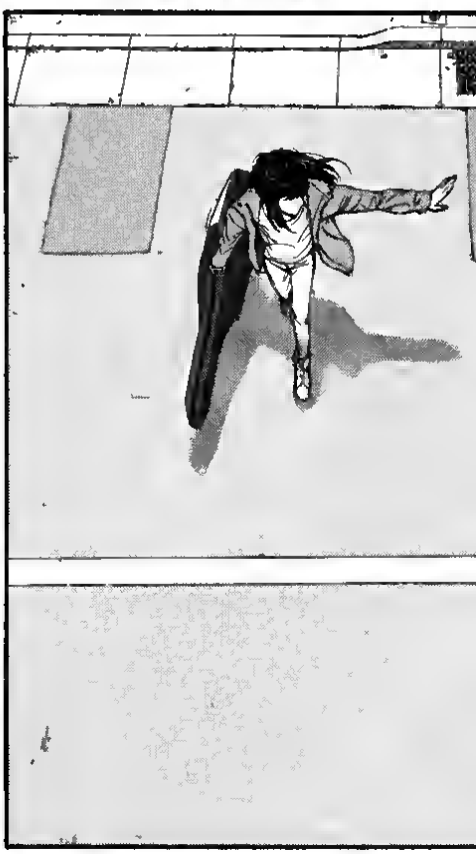
Chapter 16 The Lying Doctor

Chapter 17 Any Day Now

Chapter 01 Whatever I Want

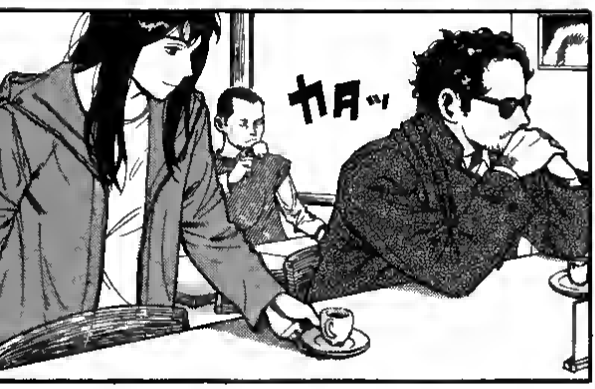
Mmph.


ヴヴヴン
ヴォォォォ
CAFE
MujinCo



カラーンヴァァァン
ガチャ
LOSED

One blend.
Oh? You're early today.
Yeah, the wind is picking up and people aren't passing by. I'm done for today.
Ah, and give me some pancakes too.


ハァ…

Tasty?

ゴク…

Huh?
Ah, I mean, is it good?
Um, yes, it's good.
I see.
Well, that's great.
...
Furthermore, I think the Japanese are especially sensitive to the bland taste of additives, such as inosinic acid and glutamic acid, so they drink it straight to enjoy the natural flavors of the raw ingredients.
However, many Japanese people drink their coffee straight, and I think that's because they use arabica coffee beans.
Oh, so you're Italian.
We Italians enjoy drinking strong roasted coffee with milk and sugar, but that is mainly because we use robusta coffee beans.
The coffee that comes from the cafés in Tokyo is all good.
...I see...
...

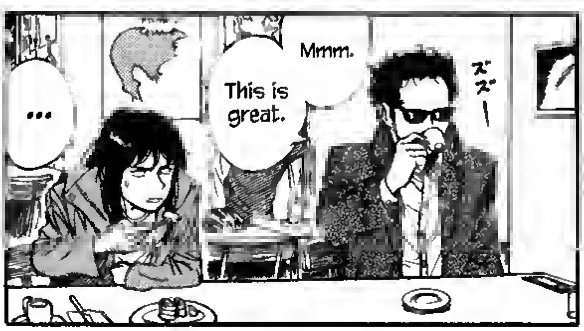
My one regret is that I do not think I'll be returning to this café.
However, I carelessly left my credit card at the hotel, and I don't have any change.
This café's is especially wonderful. If I could, I'd really love to have one more cup.

Um... If you'd like, I could treat you to another cup.

That, too, is another regret.
At the very least... Just one more cup.

With the hard roast!
ESPRESSO!!
Ah, I'll be paying for his cof—
Here are your pancakes.

Are you a professional cellist?


...
Mmm.
This is great.
ズズー

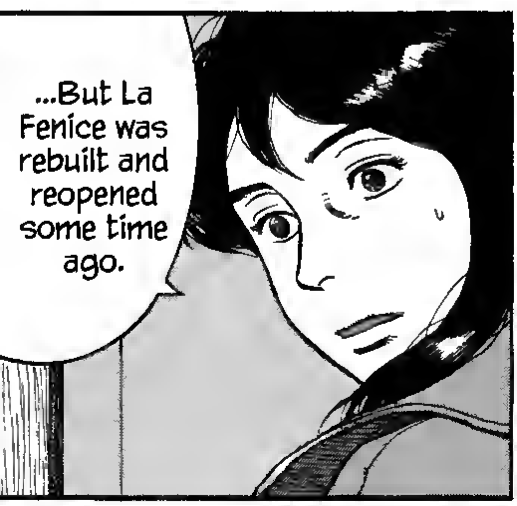
I was watching you play from over here.
Hmm, well... sort of.
I couldn't hear the music, but I could tell from your brilliant playing! *Benissimo!*
Actually, in Italy I work as the stage manager for an orchestra.
Is he for real?
Oh, thank you.
He is a good friend of my sister-in-law's sister's husband.
Yes, of course.
Mhmm. You are familiar with Riccardo Muti, yes?
Oh, really?

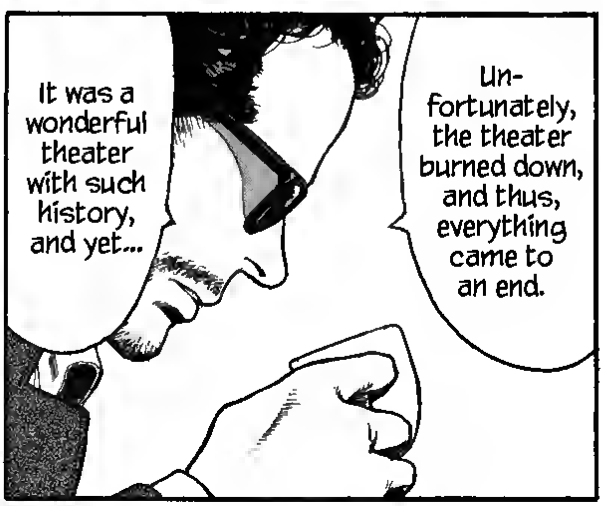
Ah.
I accompanied him some years ago when he came here for the Japanese production of "Macbeth".
And from that trip, I became interested in Japan, and started coming every so often.

So, where were you a stage manager?
Ahmmm... La Fenice! The Orchestra del Teatro La Fenice!

...Wasn't that Riccardo Frizza?
What!? Was that it? Ah yes, Frizza! Frizza Frizza!
From Noda Hideki's

...
...


...But La Fenice was rebuilt and reopened some time ago.

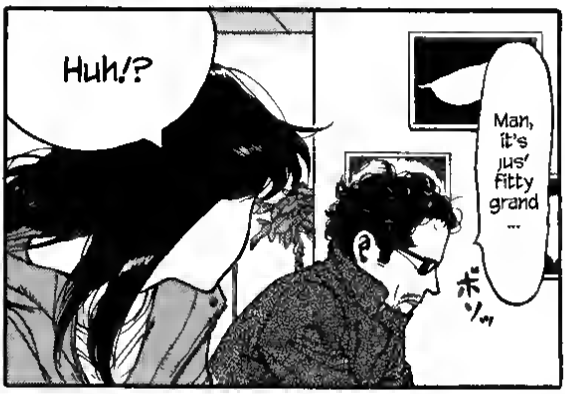

It was a wonderful theater with such history, and yet...
Unfortunately, the theater burned down, and thus, everything came to an end.

Huh?
What?
I lied about being a stage manager.
Actually, I'm an architect.
That much was obvious
Oh?
When I was a young boy, I came across Da Vinci's "De Architectura."
I was deeply attracted to the portion where it spoke of the relationship between architecture and music.
They're both the products of a harmony of the senses grounded in mathematics.
From that book, I was guided into the world of architecture, a synthesis of the arts.

...
...
Huh!?
Wasn't "De Architectura" by Vitruvius?
Um, my former lover was Japanese.
She was a beauty like Michiyo Aratama, and she taught me her language.
Michiyo Aratama
Still... Your Japanese is really good.
It's true! This is true! Pasolini! Antonioni! Visconti!
O-Okay! I believe you!
Is that so?
Actually, I'm a movie director.
And in Japan, I found an amazing artist.
Ah.
I was planning to make Japan the setting of my next film, so I'm here location hunting.

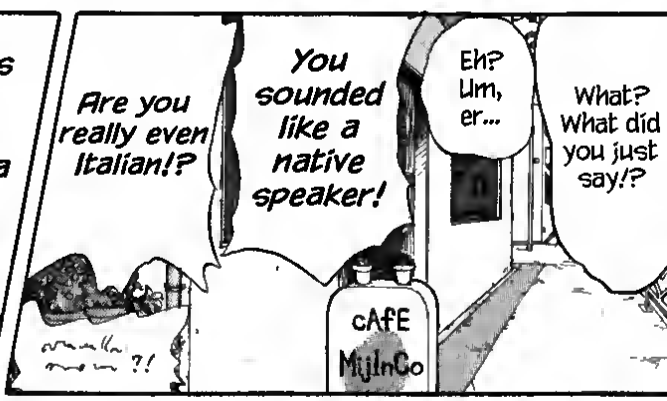
Could you lend me about 50,000 yen?

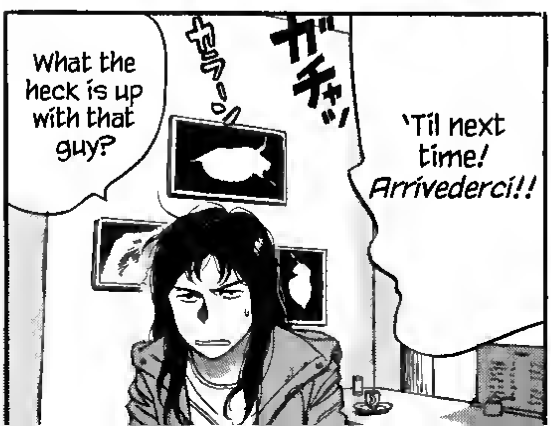
You!
You're the muse of Tokyo! You're a huge inspiration for me!!
And so, I have a favor to ask of you!
What is it?

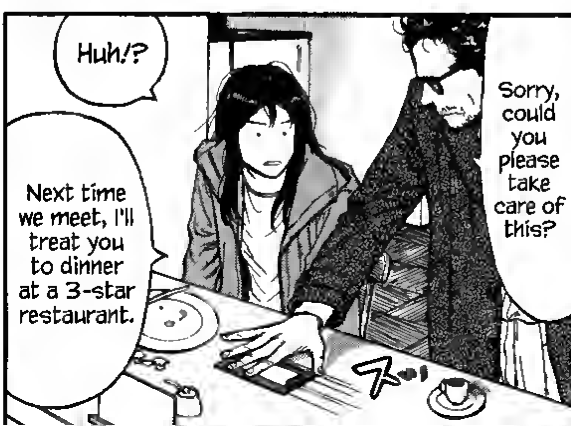

Huh!?
Man, it's jus' fifty grand ...
ポン!

No way.
What!?

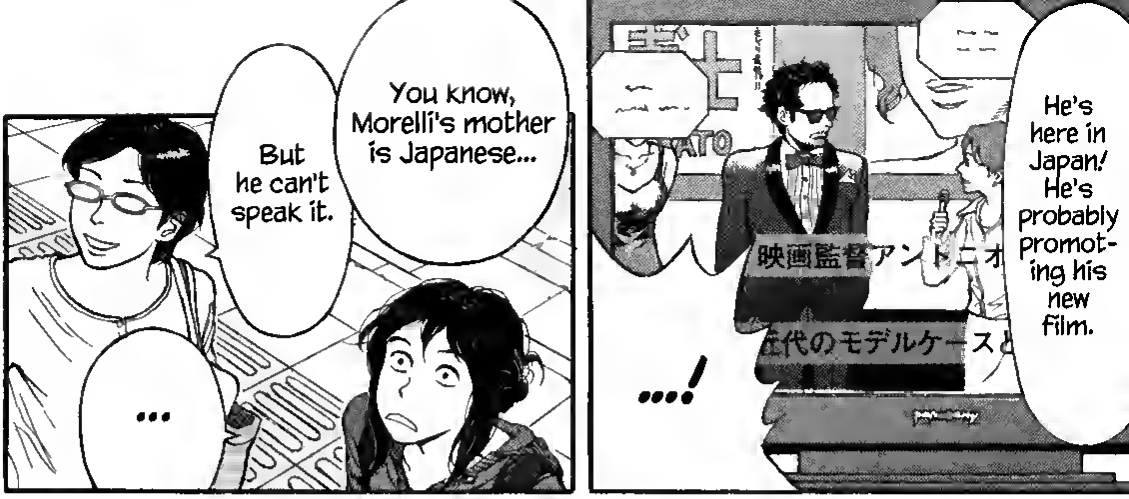
Whoa, it's already so late! I've got a meeting with the staff.


Are you really even Italian!?
You sounded like a native speaker!
Eh? Um, er...
What? What did you just say!?
cAfE MijInGo


What the heck is up with that guy?
ガチャ!
'Til next time! Arrivederci!!


Huh!?
Next time we meet, I'll treat you to dinner at a 3-star restaurant.
Sorry, could you please take care of this?

Dammit! That fake foreigner!!
All told, that comes to 3,950 Yen.
Yes, and two Napoleons.
WHAT!? He had five cups!?
南口
What happened?
Well, yesterday was pretty bad.
Did something happen? You look pretty tired.
Oh! It's Morelli!
The weirdest thing...



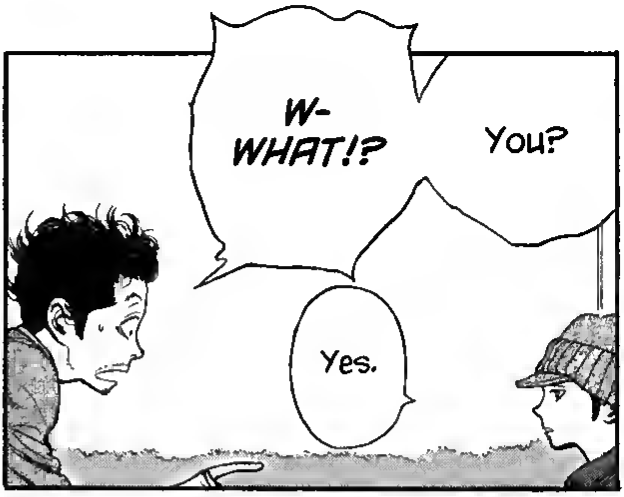
Chapter 01 END

Chapter 02　Cappuccino Kid

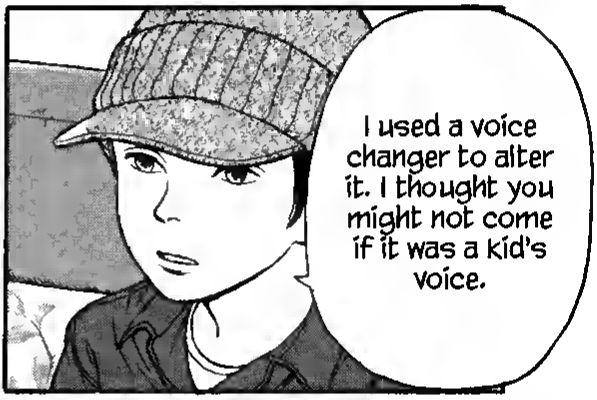
Yawn
SIP
ポリ
Sigh...

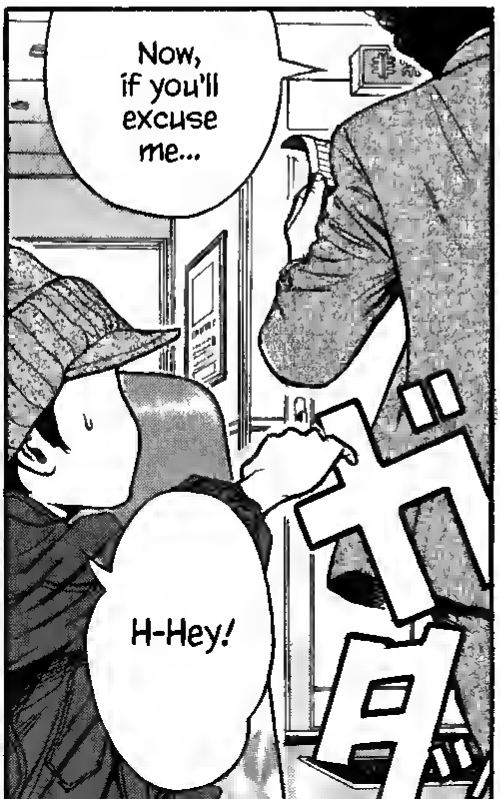
Excuse me, are you Detective Yamazaki?
Huh?
トスッ
Wha?
I'm Ueno. I spoke with you on the phone.

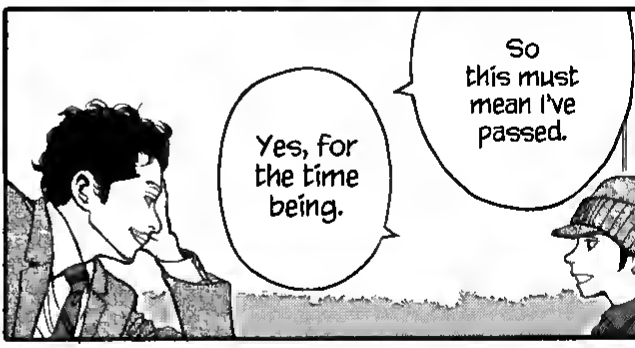
But the voice on the phone sounded...

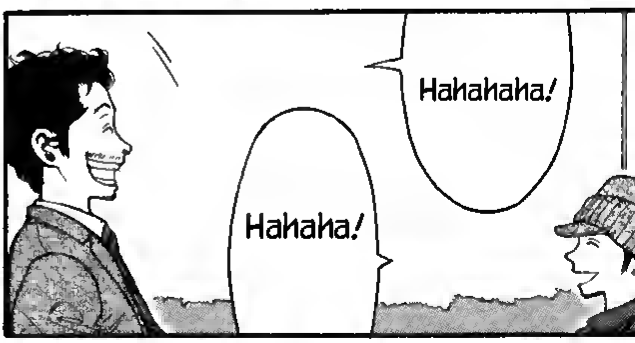

W-WHAT!?
You?
Yes.

And up until now I've been monitoring you, to see if you were trustworthy.
Oh yeah, that voice was weird...

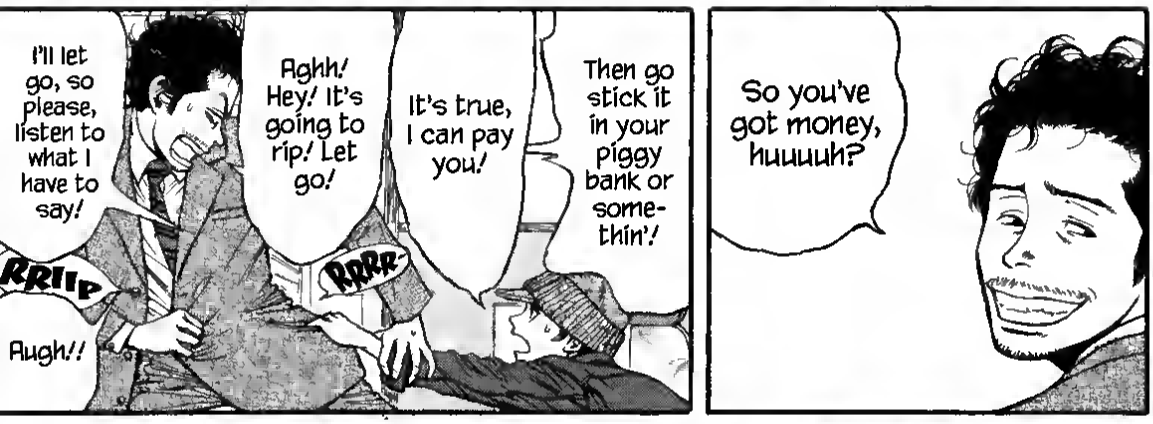

I used a voice changer to alter it. I thought you might not come if it was a kid's voice.


Now, if you'll excuse me...
H-Hey!


So this must mean I've passed.
Yes, for the time being.


Hahahaha!
Hahaha!

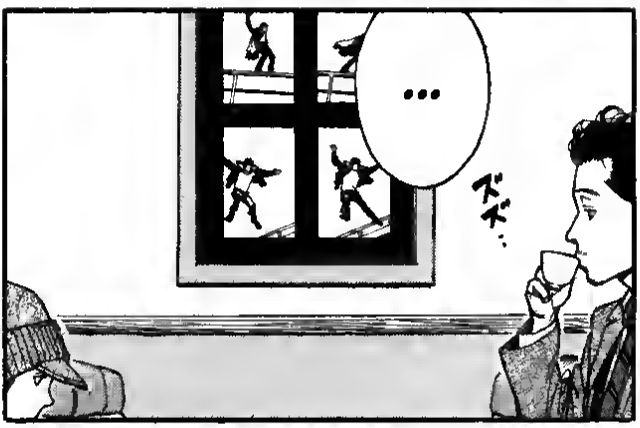
What are you doing!? Let go!
W-Wait just a second!
You've gotta be kidding me!
Putting on that meek facade so you can pull a fast one on the good guys...
It's not a trick! If it's money, I've got it!


I'll let go, so please, listen to what I have to say!
Aghh! Hey! It's going to rip! Let go!
It's true, I can pay you!
Then go stick it in your piggy bank or somethin'!
So you've got money, huuuuh?
RRIP
RRRR
Augh!!

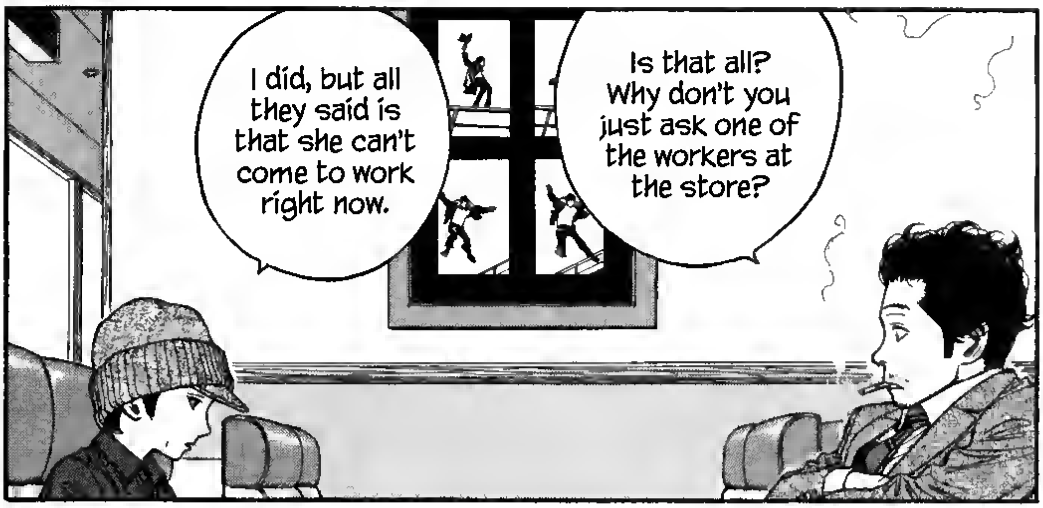
and another five hundred thousand yen in government bonds in my name.
Anyways, I have about six hundred thousand yen in my bank account,

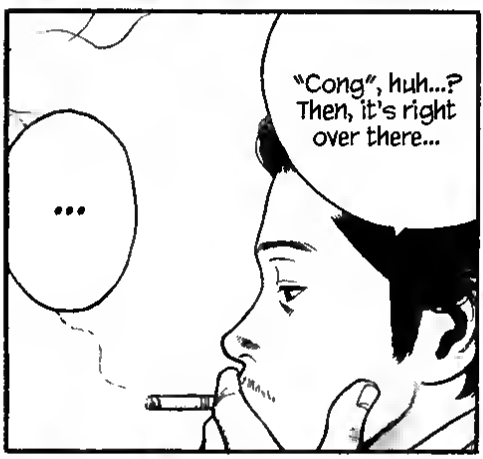
Excuse me~
Would you like another cup of coffee?
Ah, great!
Is that enough?
...It's more than enough, but just how did you get that kind of money?
Sorry, but I hope you don't mind me smoking one of these.
And put them on my bill.
He got me a cappuccino
Understood.
A coffee and another cappuccino, please.
Okay.
Well, whatever. It's not that weird for kids these days to have all sorts of money.
Online auctions, huh.
I sold PC memory, trading cards, and games in online auctions.
So... how did you get that much money? Been saving up your New Year's allowances?
...
I mean, exactly how old are you? Are you even out of grade school yet?
But you know, my company has rules, and basically we can't take your case unless you're eighteen years old.

Ah, thank you.
Here is your coffee and cappuccino.


...

Really!?
...Well, how about this? I'll listen to just one cup of coffee's worth of your story.
But I'm only listening, okay?


I did, but all they said is that she can't come to work right now.
Is that all? Why don't you just ask one of the workers at the store?

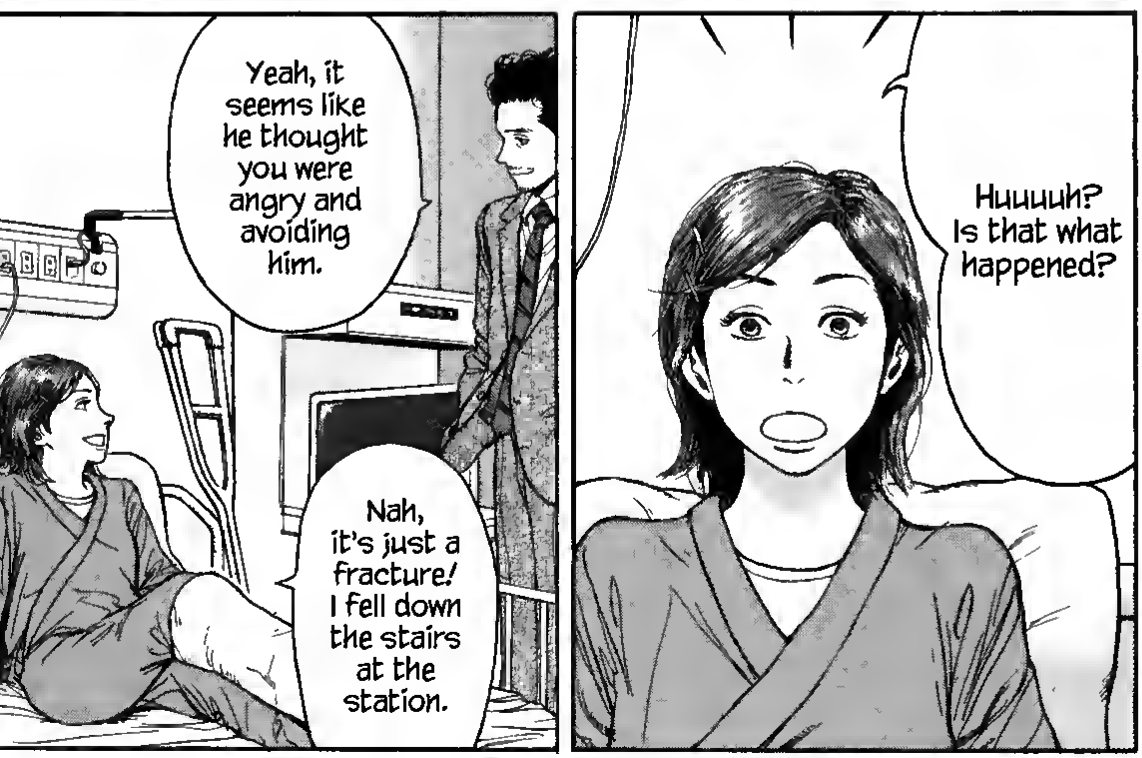

"Cong", huh...? Then, it's right over there...
...

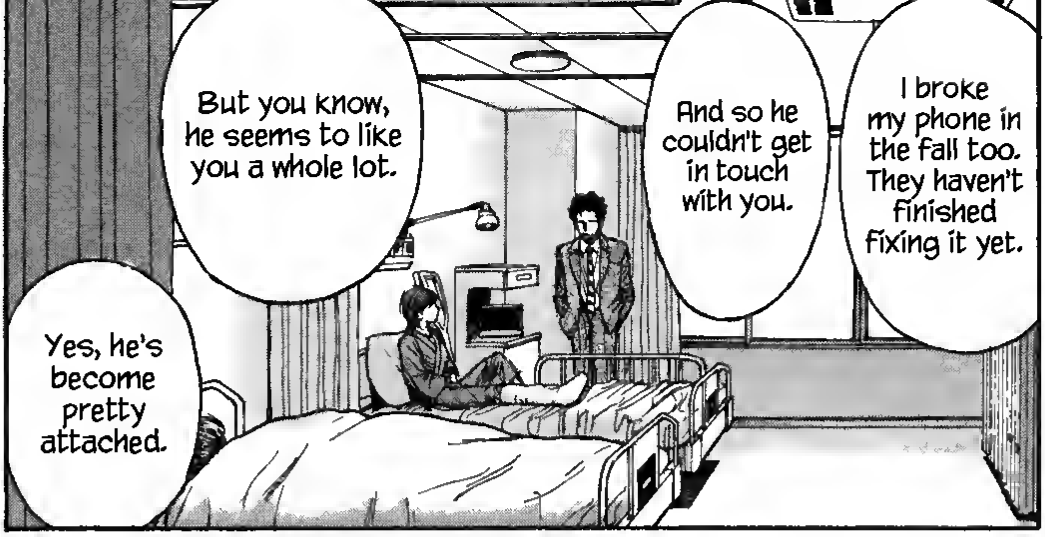
...The kind between a part-timer and a customer.
Hmm...
Besides, what kind of relationship do you have with this girl at the game store?

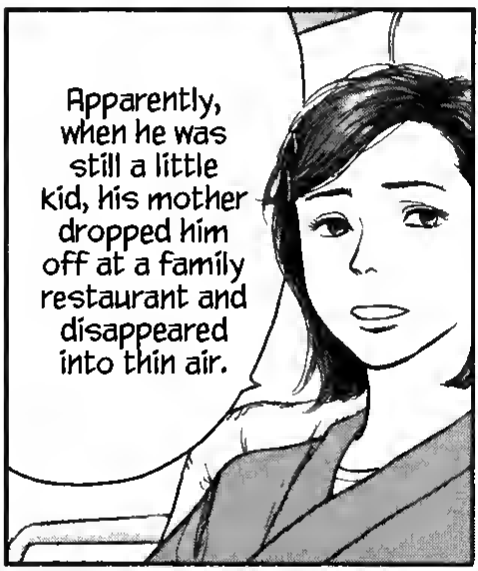
CD ゲーム コング DO CONG
CD DVD
お売りください

フーン
Well, I guess there's no two ways about it... I'll go ask them a few questions.
Really?
Just a few, and if they don't know, then that's the end of that.
Go wait at the park over there.

KITAMURA GENERAL HOSPITAL


Yeah, it seems like he thought you were angry and avoiding him.
Nah, it's just a fracture! I fell down the stairs at the station.
Huuuuh? Is that what happened?


But you know, he seems to like you a whole lot.
And so he couldn't get in touch with you.
I broke my phone in the fall too. They haven't finished fixing it yet.
Yes, he's become pretty attached.


Apparently, when he was still a little kid, his mother dropped him off at a family restaurant and disappeared into thin air.

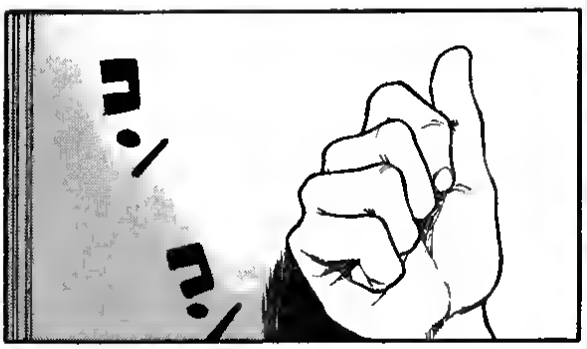
Even so, he really is just a kid, getting upset over being left alone.
If you don't mind my saying so
Oh—
...

PIRI
PIRI
PIRI
Hey! This is Kaori. How have you been? My cellphone is broken, so I'm texting you from the detective's phone. Actually, I fractured my foot the other day, so I'm being treated at Kitamura Hospital. Sorry to make you worry. When my cellphone's fixed
CLICK
BEEP
PIRIRIRI

Sorry to trouble you/ Thank you very much!
Ah, it was nothing.
Did you get the message?
Well, that's how it is, so after this go buy a cake or something and pay her a visit.
Mr. Yamazaki ...
Ah, well... Okay.
But I cost you time and effort...
It wasn't that much effort.
It's fine, I didn't take this on as work.
And how much do I owe you?
But...
Treat me to a cup of cappuccino somewhere.

Chapter 03 Currant

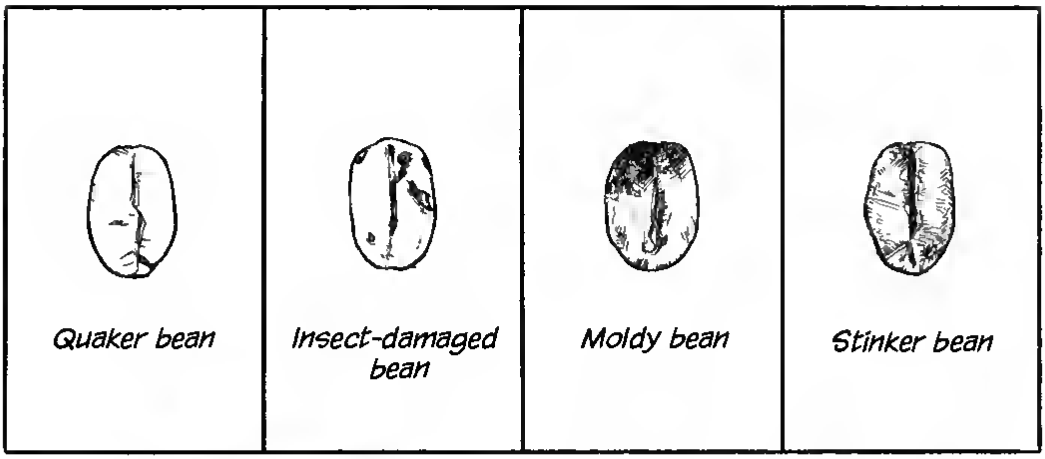
カーン
カーン
カーン

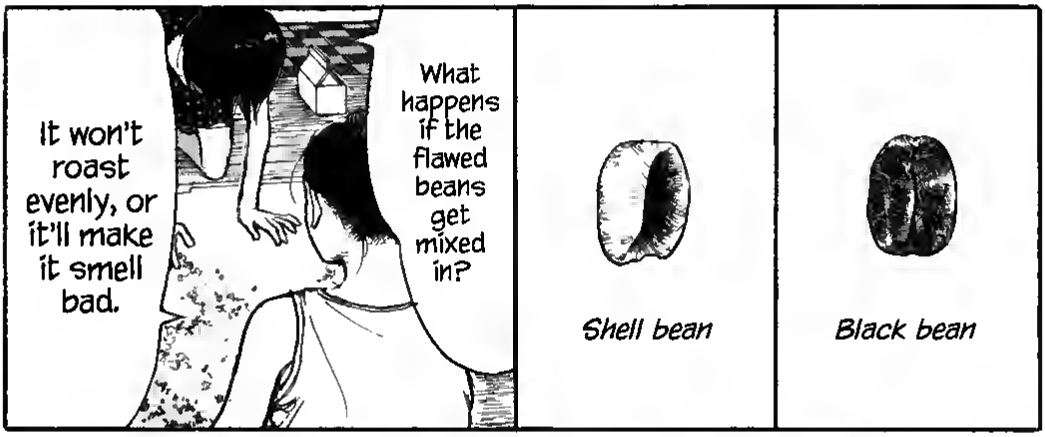

コン
コン

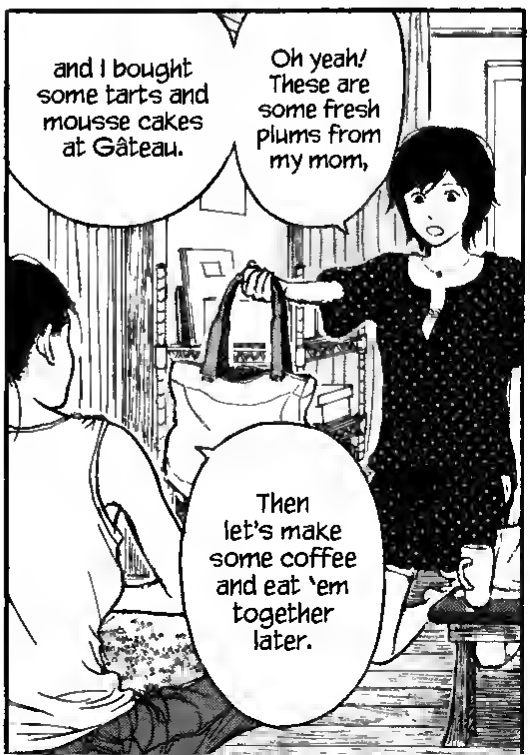
Yes, who is it?
It's me, Harumi.
Oh, it's open, come on in.

キィー
ゴトーン
ゴトーン
ゴトーン

Wow, what's going on here!?
Sorry, they're sorta scattered everywhere right now.
I was given these coffee beans and thought I'd roast some,
so I'm picking out the flawed ones.
Flawed ones?
Yes, see how there's some of 'em I've got to the side here?

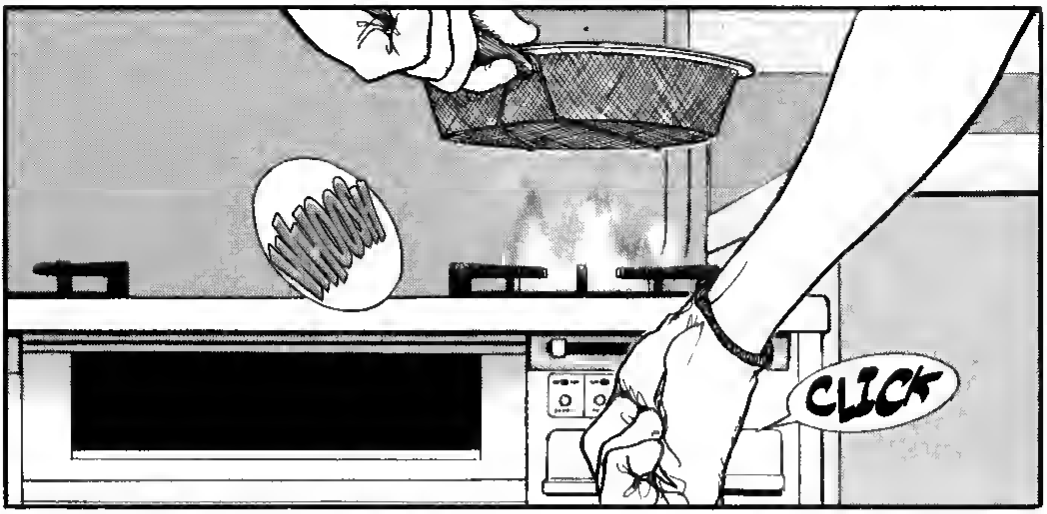

Quaker bean
Insect-damaged bean
Moldy bean
Stinker bean

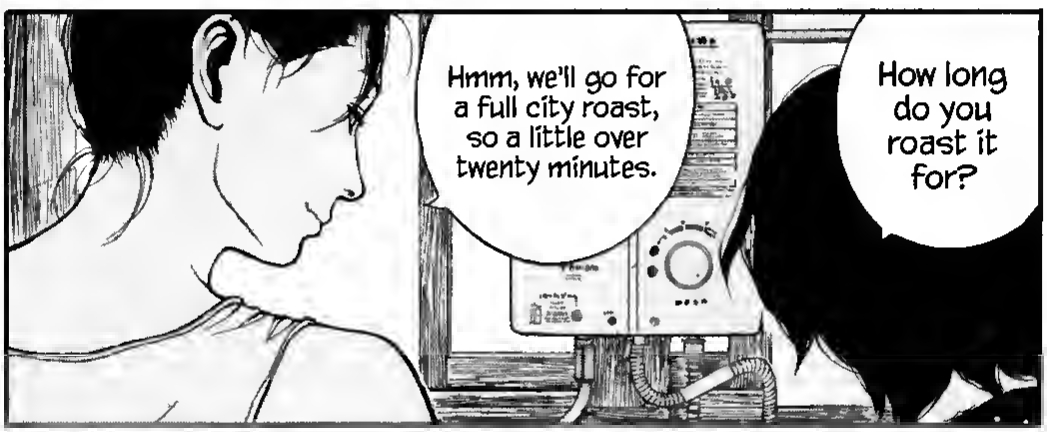

It won't roast evenly, or it'll make it smell bad.
What happens if the flawed beans get mixed in?
Shell bean
Black bean

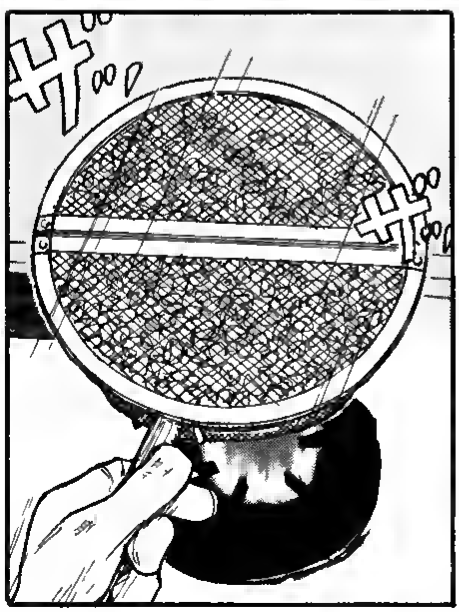

and I bought some tarts and mousse cakes at Gâteau.
Oh yeah! These are some fresh plums from my mom,
Then let's make some coffee and eat 'em together later.

You got it!
Oh, is this one?

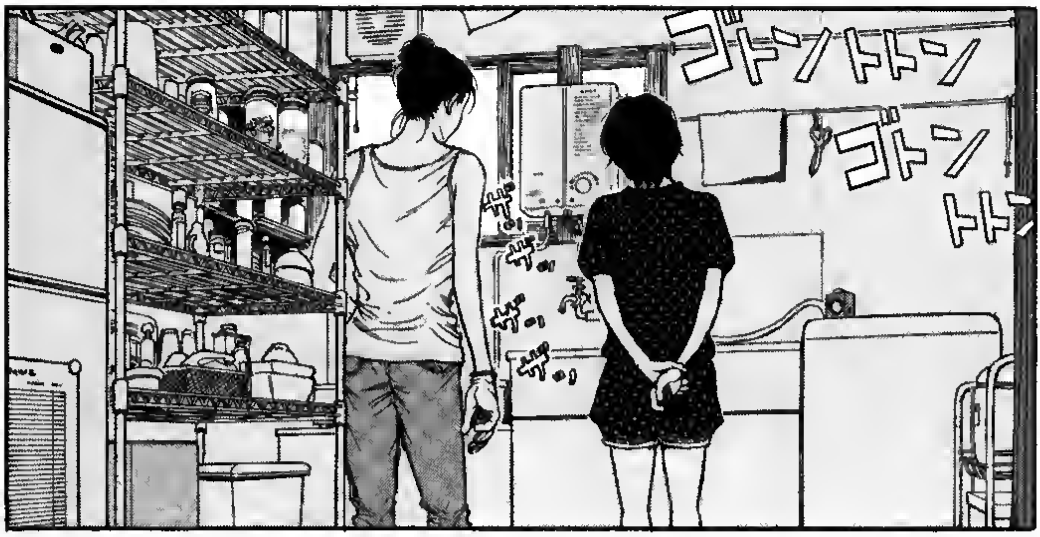
Yeah, but I think we've got most of 'em already.
They're pretty hard to find.

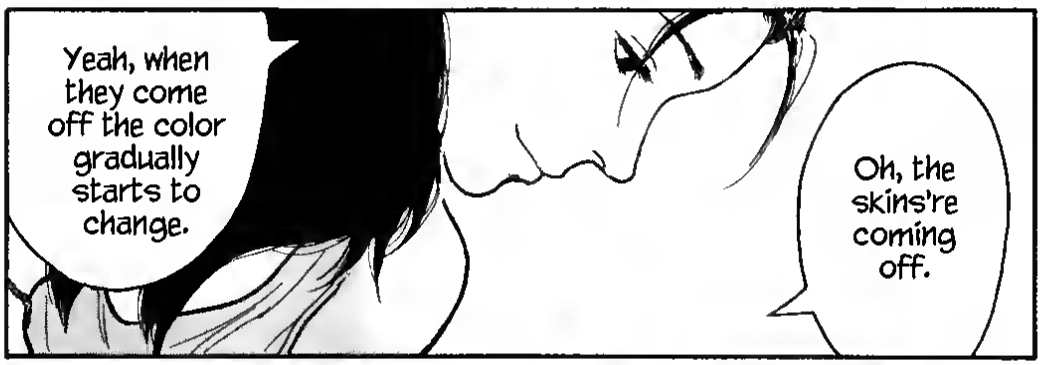

CLICK


Hmm, we'll go for a full city roast, so a little over twenty minutes.
How long do you roast it for?

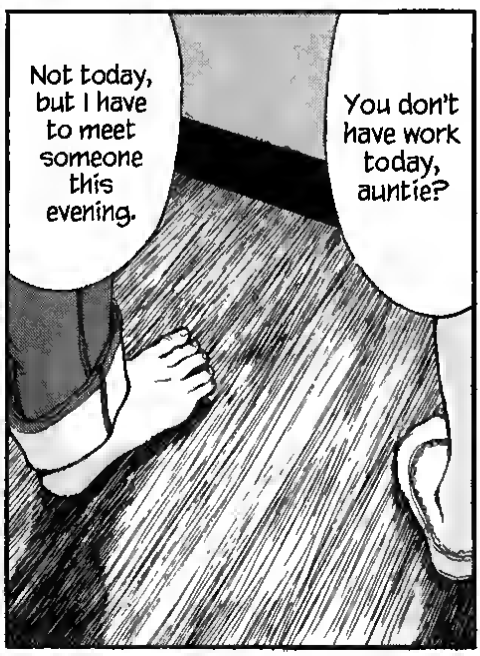


That's right; this is actually a ginkgo nut roaster.
It's sort of like roasting ginkgo nuts.
Oh, no wonder.

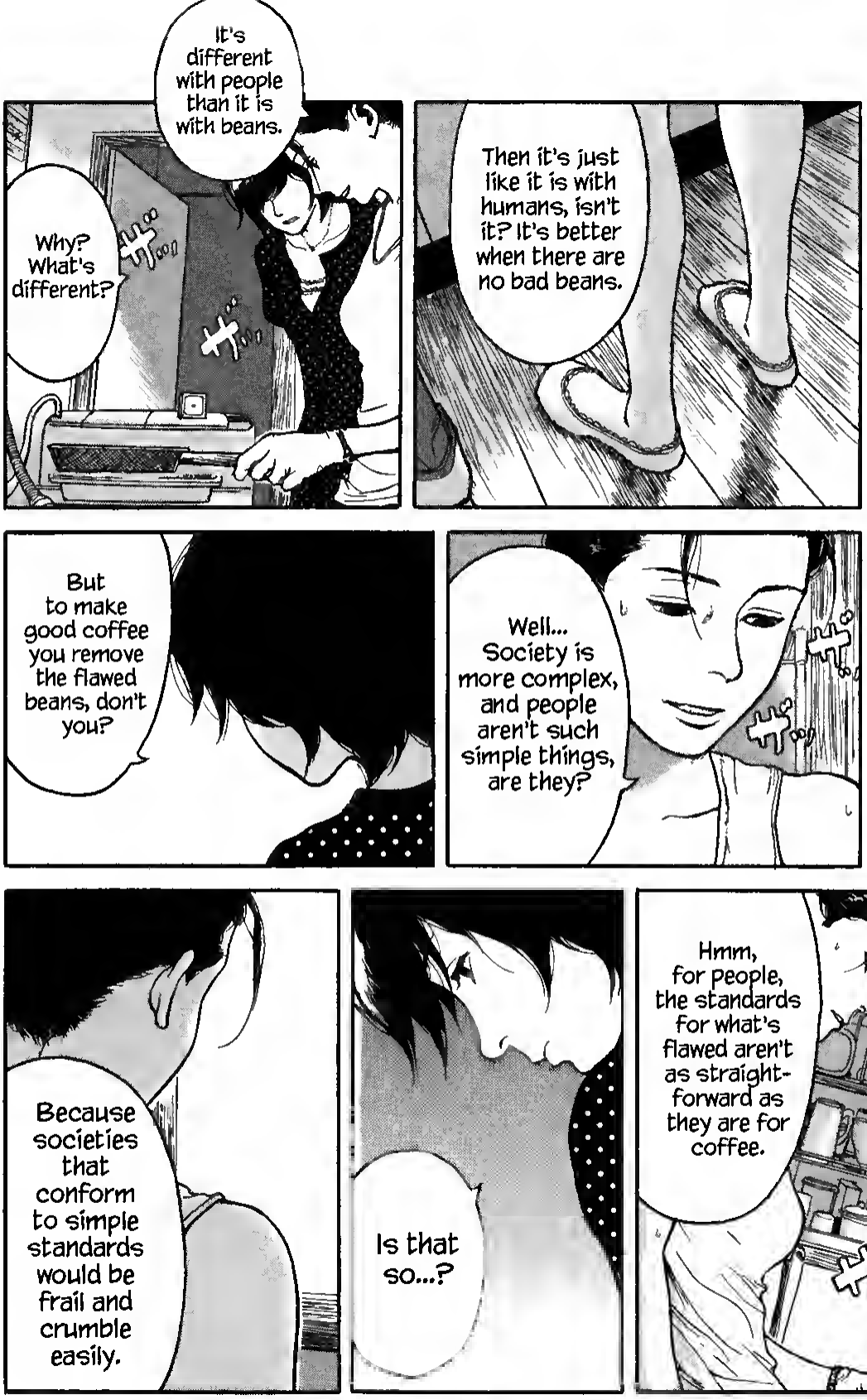

ゴトンゴトン
ゴトン
トトン


Yeah, when they come off the color gradually starts to change.
Oh, the skins're coming off.

コ・・・・・

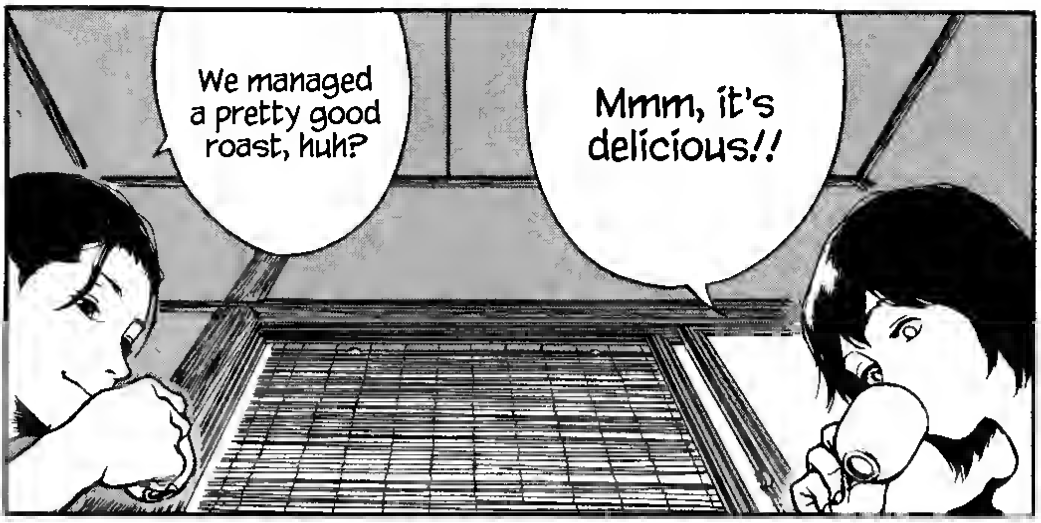

Not today, but I have to meet someone this evening.
You don't have work today, auntie?

パシャ
Mhmm, if you don't want the taste of the coffee to get ruined, anyways.
...So it's better when there are no flawed beans, huh?

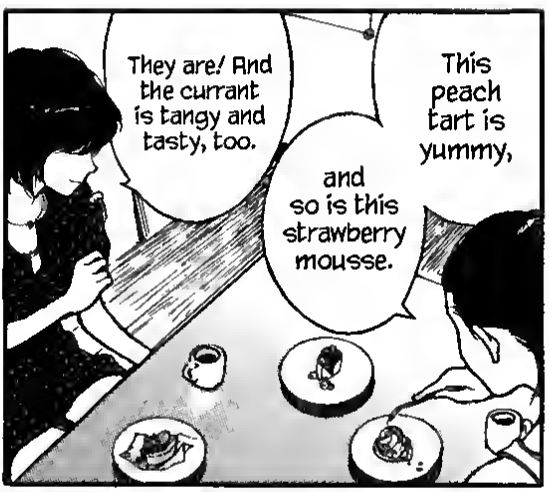

It's different with people than it is with beans.
Why? What's different?
Then it's just like it is with humans, isn't it? It's better when there are no bad beans.
But to make good coffee you remove the flawed beans, don't you?
Well... Society is more complex, and people aren't such simple things, are they?
Because societies that conform to simple standards would be frail and crumble easily.
Is that so...?
Hmm, for people, the standards for what's flawed aren't as straightforward as they are for coffee.

Also, it's the end of the road for these beans when they're harvested, but as long as a person is living, they'll continue to change, right?
How many minutes has it been?
Sixteen and a little.
What's "living" all about, anyways?
Hmmm, what *is* it all about?
I guess it might be about changing.
Here we go!

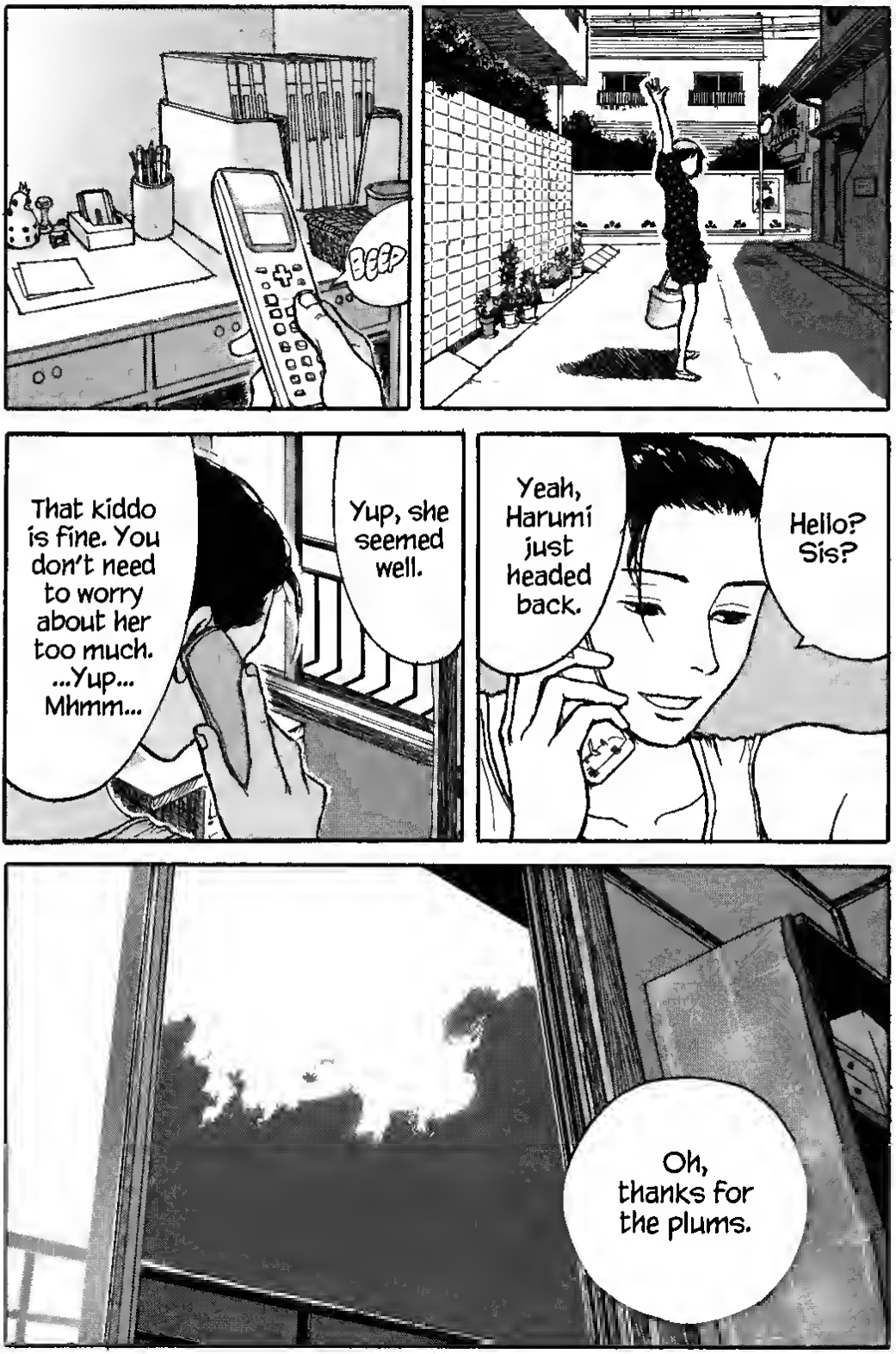
If we don't cool them down quickly, they'll keep on roasting from the retained heat.
Harumi, fan it from the top too.
Ah, okay.
Get the hairdryer.
Okay!
All right! Freshly roasted!
Oww! Still hot!
Wow, the smell is so strong!

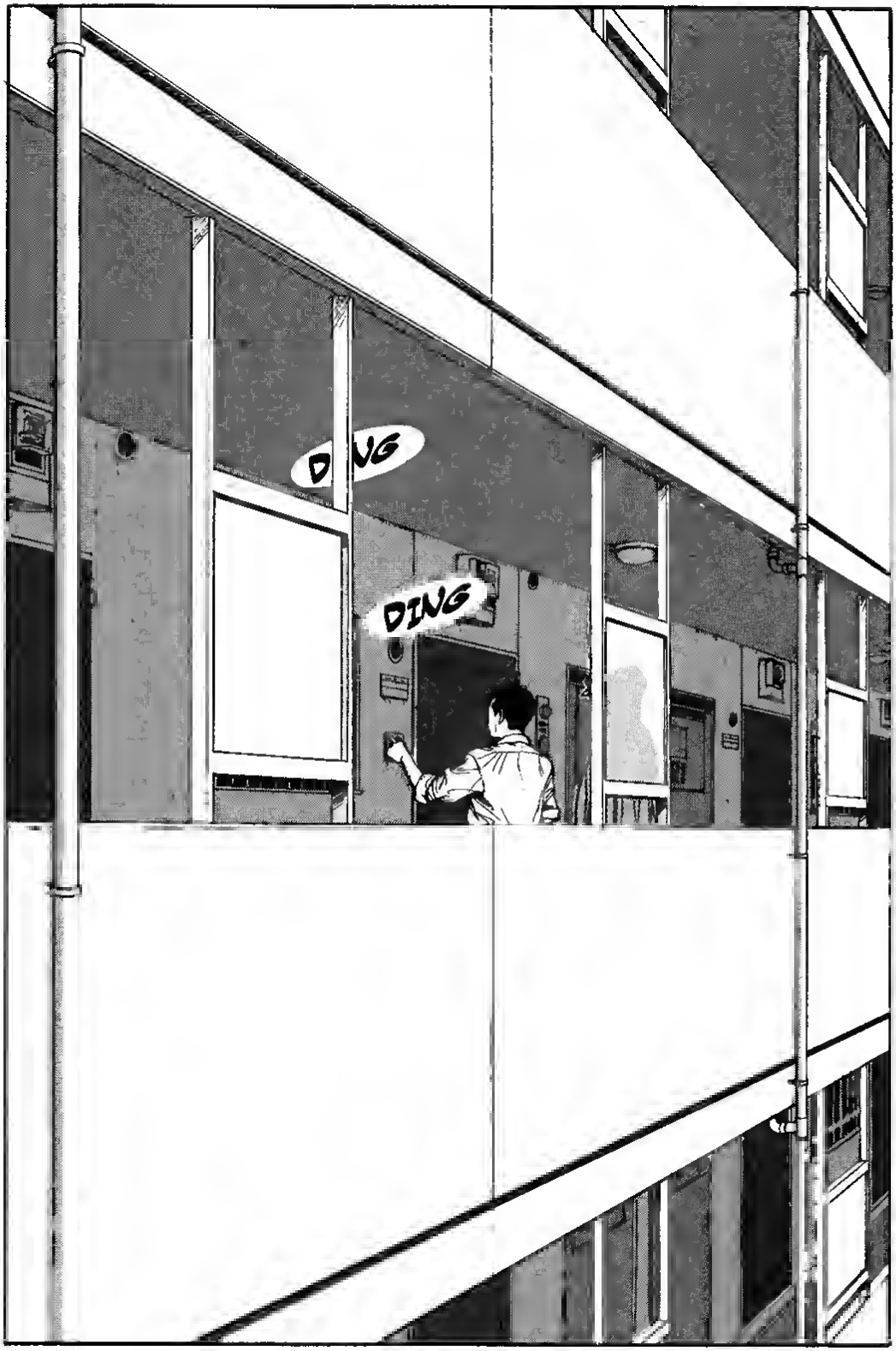

We managed a pretty good roast, huh?
Mmm, it's delicious!!

Matsuyama Kenichi!
Aren't there any cool guys at Gâteau? You know, like Matsu Ken?
Huh? Matsudaira Ken?


They are! And the currant is tangy and tasty, too.
This peach tart is yummy,
and so is this strawberry mousse.

You do?
I want to see a battle between Matsu Ken and Matsuda Ryuuhei in the movies, like in Death Note.
Yeah, they're cool.


BEEP
Hello? Sis?
Yeah, Harumi just headed back.
Yup, she seemed well.
That kiddo is fine. You don't need to worry about her too much. ...Yup... Mhmm...
Oh, thanks for the plums.



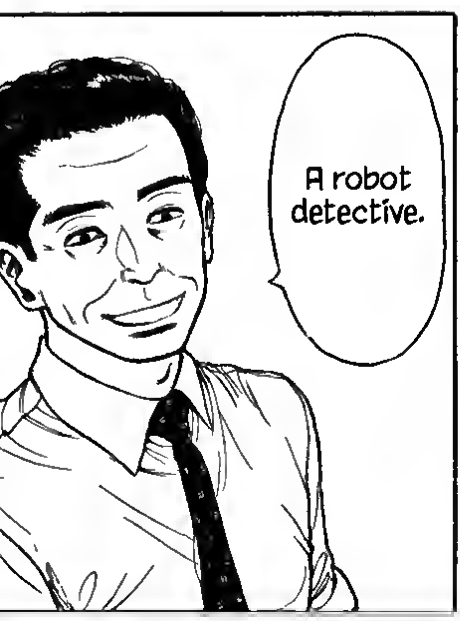
Chapter 4: Robot Detective

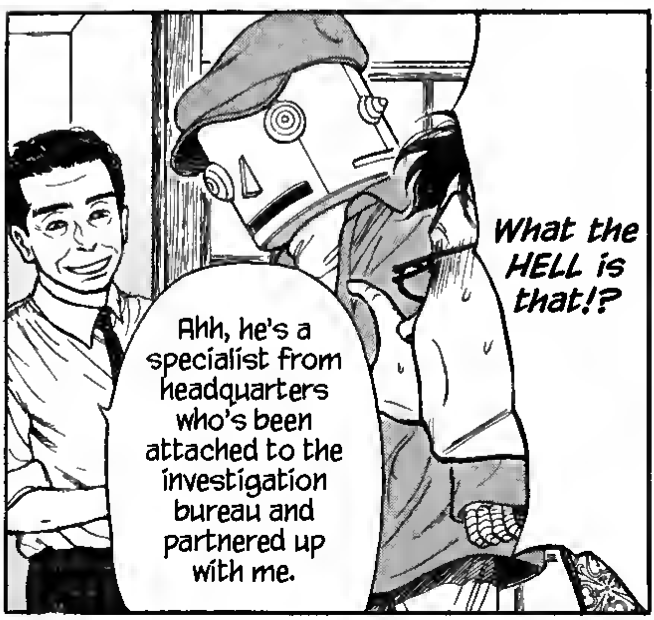
Excuse me, I'm Nabeshima from the Gotanda police station.
Well, I'm really sorry about this, but I assure you this'll be the last time, so could you please cooperate?
...What is it? I've already said all there was to say down at the station.
...Come on in.
Sorry again about this.

EXCUSE ME.
ガタゴト
Wow, this is a nice place you've got here.
Yes, excuse us.

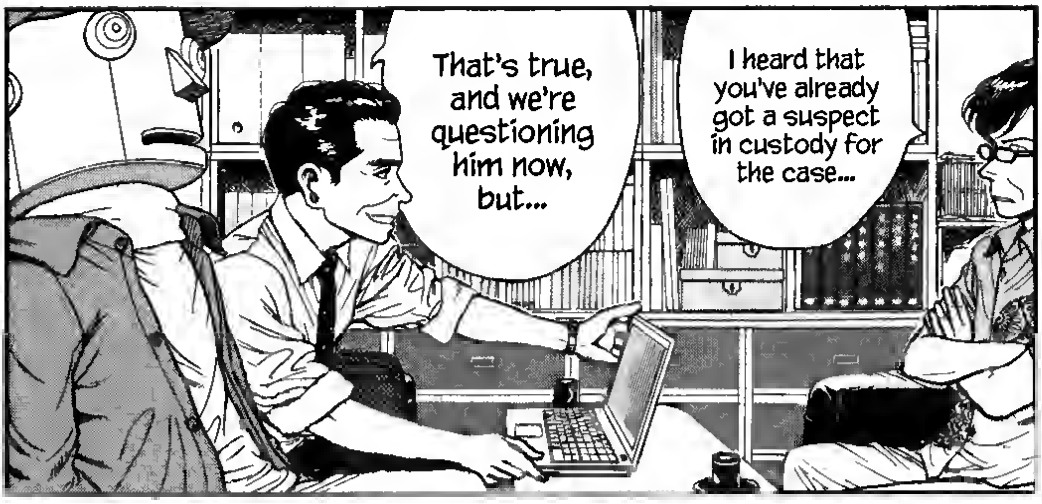
Ho-
Ho-
Hold on!

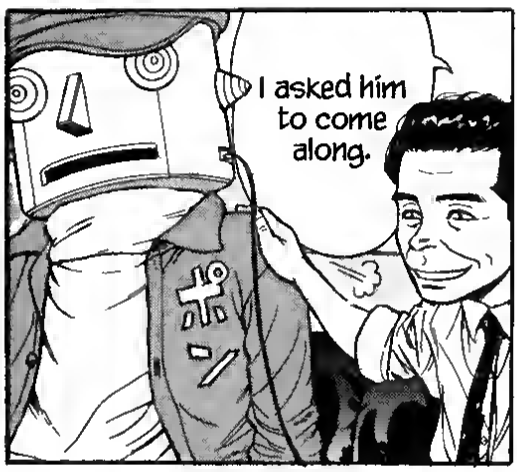
ガタゴト

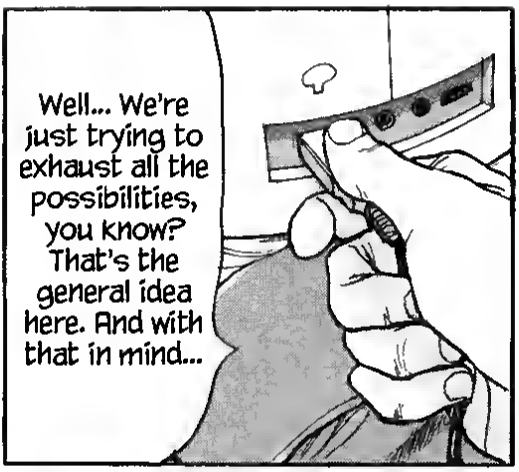

A robot detective.

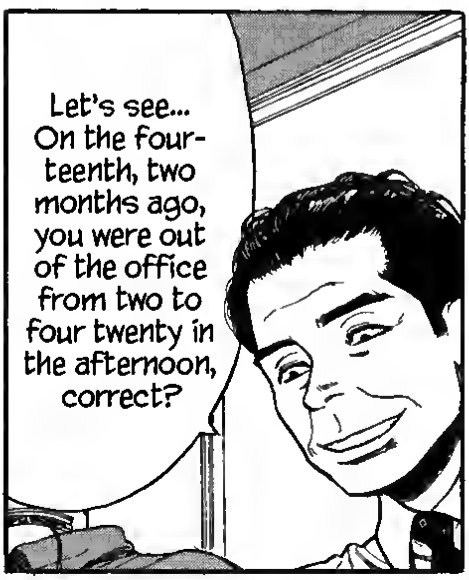

What the HELL is that!?
Ahh, he's a specialist from headquarters who's been attached to the investigation bureau and partnered up with me.

Here you go.
Oh, no, please don't trouble yourself over me.
Oh, this smells good. This is from Guatemala, isn't it?
...
I AM A ROBOT, THEREFORE I DO NOT DRINK COFFEE.
...So... What is this about?
Same thing as before, of course: the murder of Mr. Tabata.


That's true, and we're questioning him now, but...
I heard that you've already got a suspect in custody for the case...


I asked him to come along.


Well... We're just trying to exhaust all the possibilities, you know? That's the general idea here. And with that in mind...


Let's see... On the fourteenth, two months ago, you were out of the office from two to four twenty in the afternoon, correct?

Now then, shall we start?

Like I've said multiple times, I went to a client's office.
During that period of two hours and twenty minutes, where did you go?
Um... I think until around four.
How long did you stay at Ms. Masuda's apartment?
Yes, I was returning some things I had borrowed from her.
And that was until three, after which you visited a friend from work, right? A Ms. Fuyumi Masuda?
How long have you been acquainted with Ms. Masuda?
Hmm, well... Just about ten years now.
No, I didn't know about their private lives.
Were you aware of the intimate relationship between Ms. Masuda and Mr. Tabata?

I AM A ROBOT, THEREFORE I DO NOT DRINK COFFEE.
GIMME A GOD DAMN BREAK!
Wasn't she actually your lover?
Then, when you were in her apartment...
...
Huh?
Hmm?
W-What's going on!? It's not going to EXPLODE, is it!?
No, this happens from time to time. It'll settle down soon.
Hey! What's wrong, robot detective!?
WHOA!

Oh, not like that; could you please put your hand in its mouth and hold it down?
What?
...Like this?
That's where the power switch is.
I'm sorry, but would you mind holding down the head for a little bit?
Huh?
Now, if you'll let me continue with the questions...
WHAT!?
That's right, just like that.
...Like this?
Well then... At that *same* time, there were two fire trucks putting out the fire in front of apartment five—
...Hey, Mr. Detective, can we stop this? This is stupid.
At that time, do you remember a magnitude three earthquake occuring?
You had some coffee at Ms. Masuda's apartment. How many cups?
...No, I didn't notice.
...Two cups.

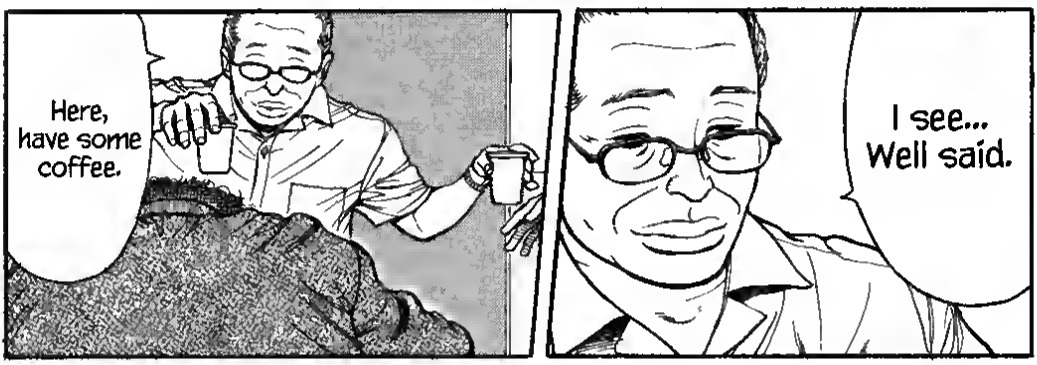
WHOA!!
CHOM-
I mean, why are you asking...
Huh?
That's just the internal stabilizer...
Hey, could I get you to stick your hand back in there?
Someone just grabbed my hand real tight!!
T-There's someone inside there!!
Hm? No, that's...
Hey... That's not a polygraph, is it?
...
This will all be over soon, Mr. Nishimura.

Wait! Do you think you can do this without my consent!?
No, no... You've got it all wrong.
What?
ピク
Ah! Hey!!
It'll all be over in a second, so...
Even if that's what it is, if you were *innocent* you wouldn't be so hesitant, would you!?
You DIDN'T go to Ms. Masuda's place after your client's office!
Quit bitching!!
There's someone in there after all!!
CHOMP
Stop!! Let me go!

IT WAS YOU! YOU murdered Tabata, didn't you!?
Was it REVENGE after he stole your lover!? Was it MONEY!?
Those dimwits at H.Q. are all wrong! I knew it all along!
I want my lawyer!! This isn't legal!!
No! You're wrong!
Shut it!

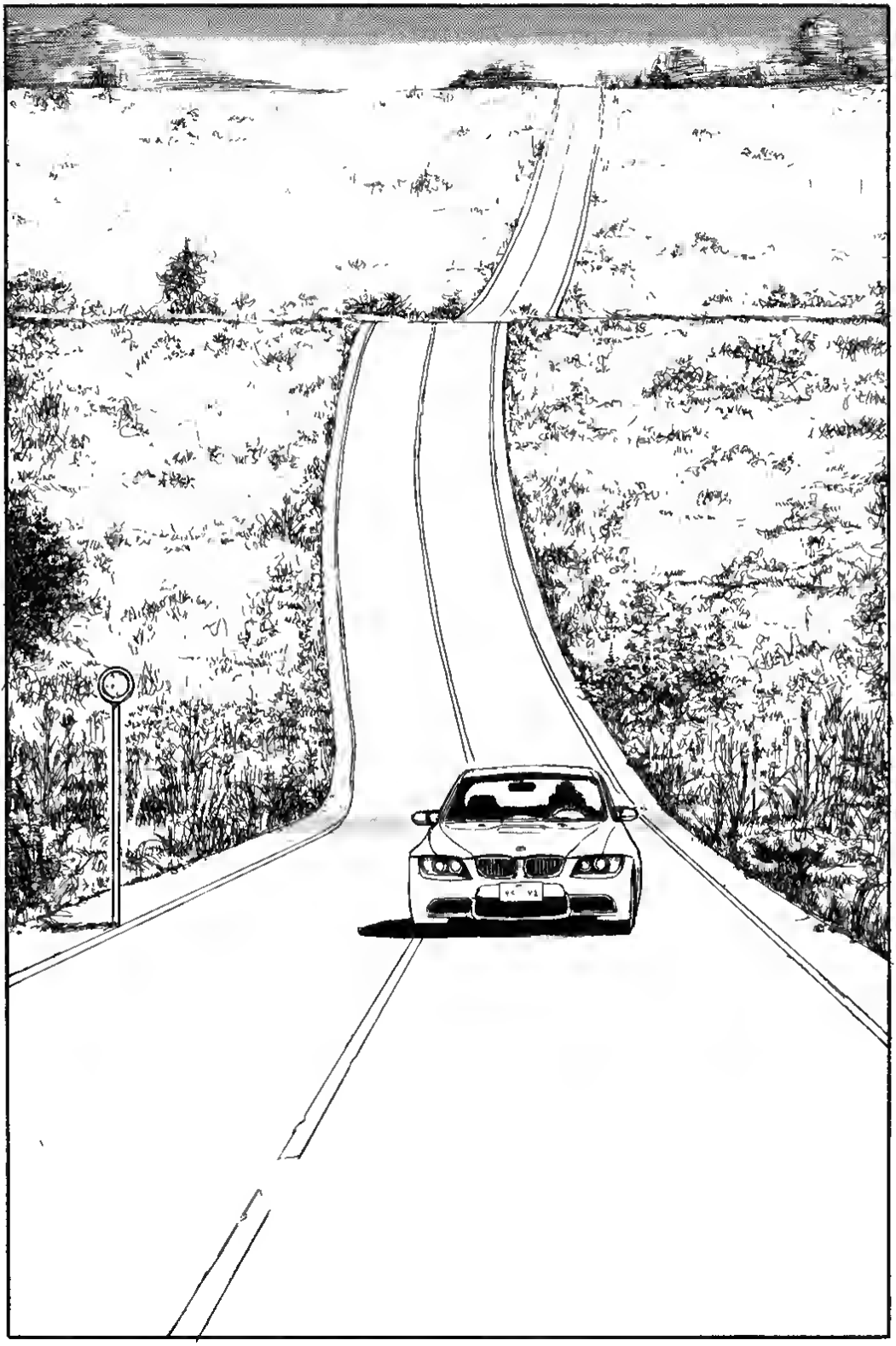
It wasn't me! It wasn't meee ee!!
YOU did it, DIDN'T you!?
It was YOU!

I did it...!
It was me...

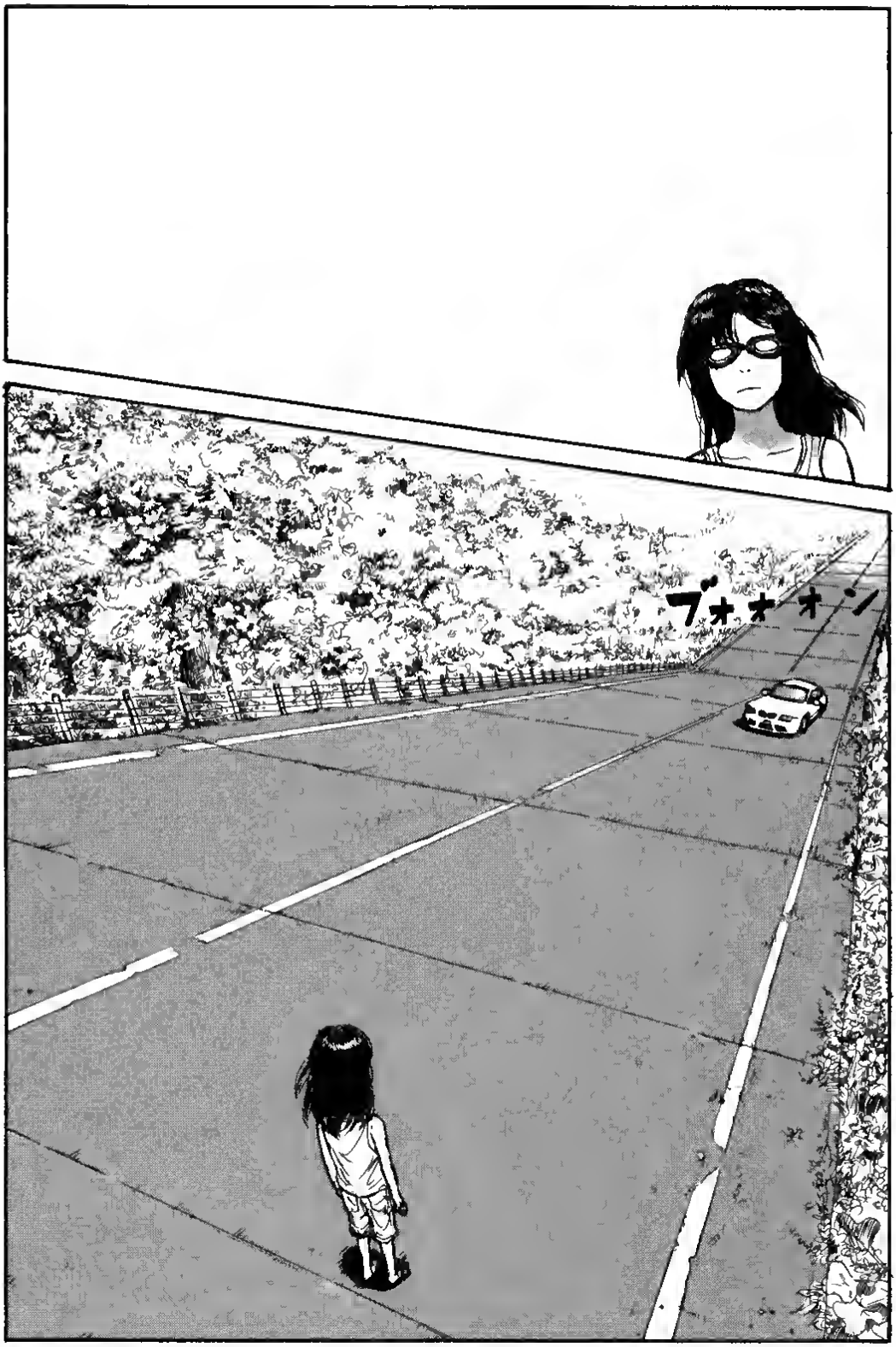


Oh— He's wandering around somewhere with "that".
All right! Let's go let everyone know!
...Now that you mention it, where's Nabeshima?
Oh, *that*...

Chapter 04 END

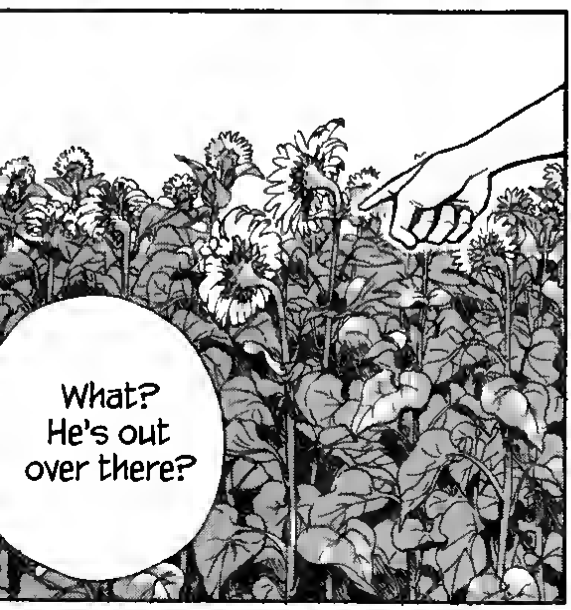


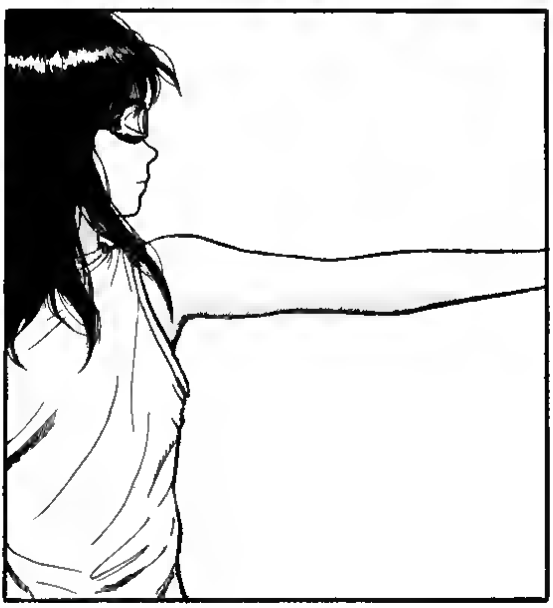
Chapter 05　KIKI the Pixy

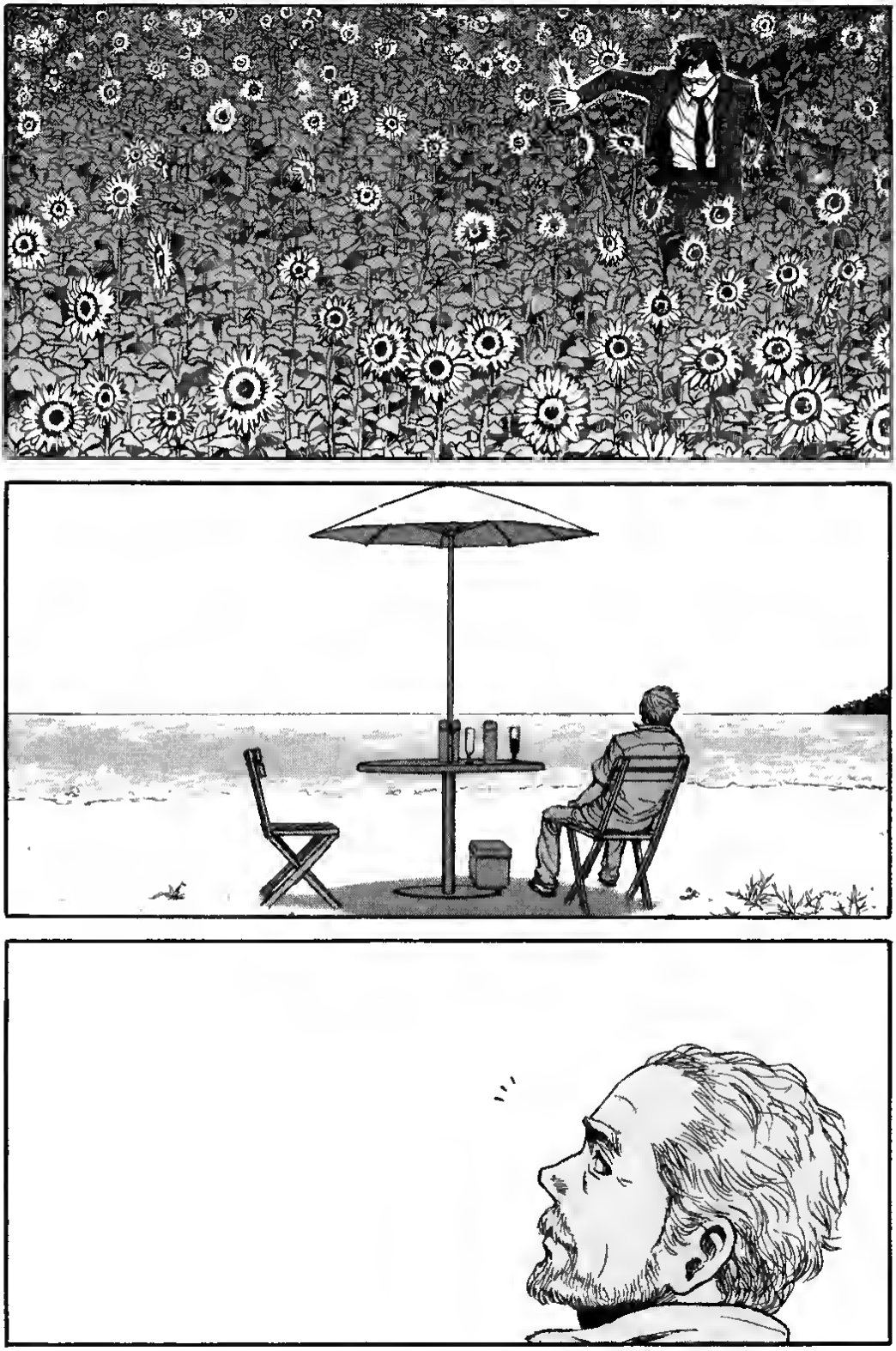

ブォォォン

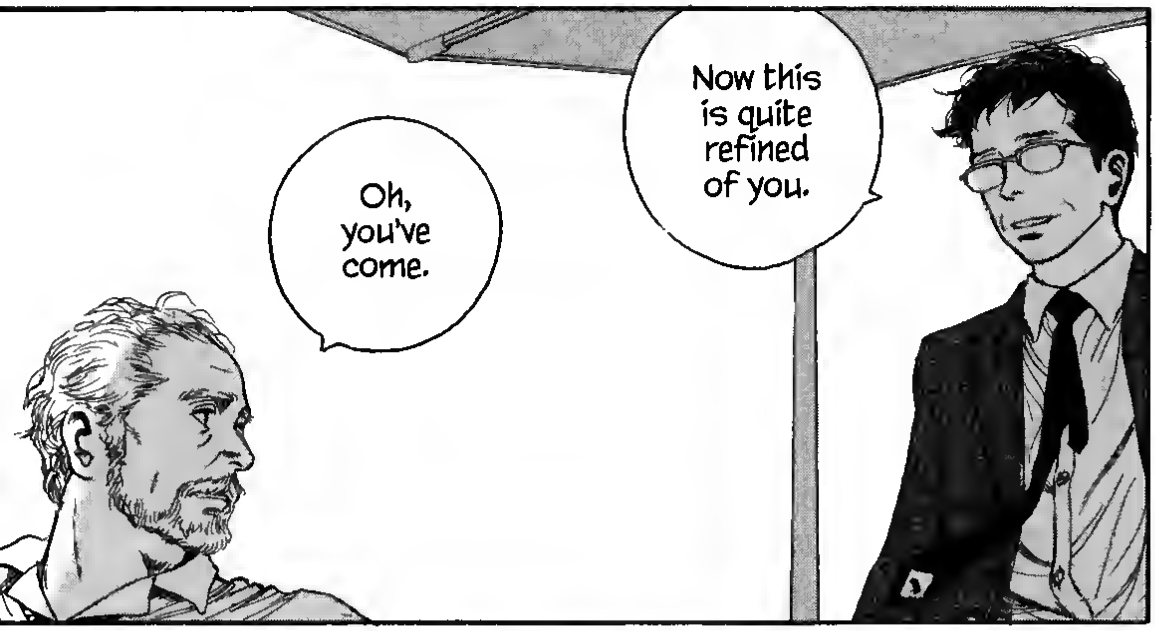
キィ
ファァァ

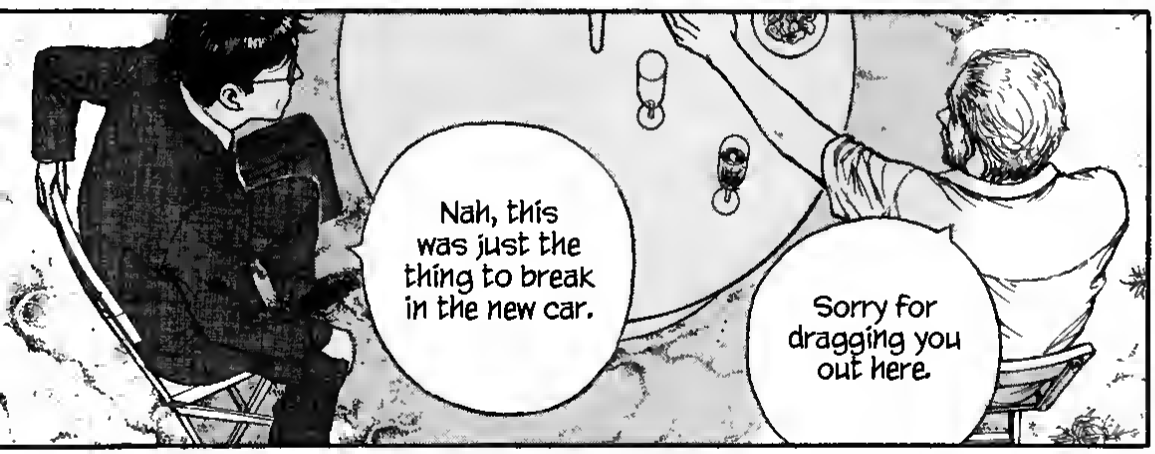
Where's the old man?


What? He's out over there?



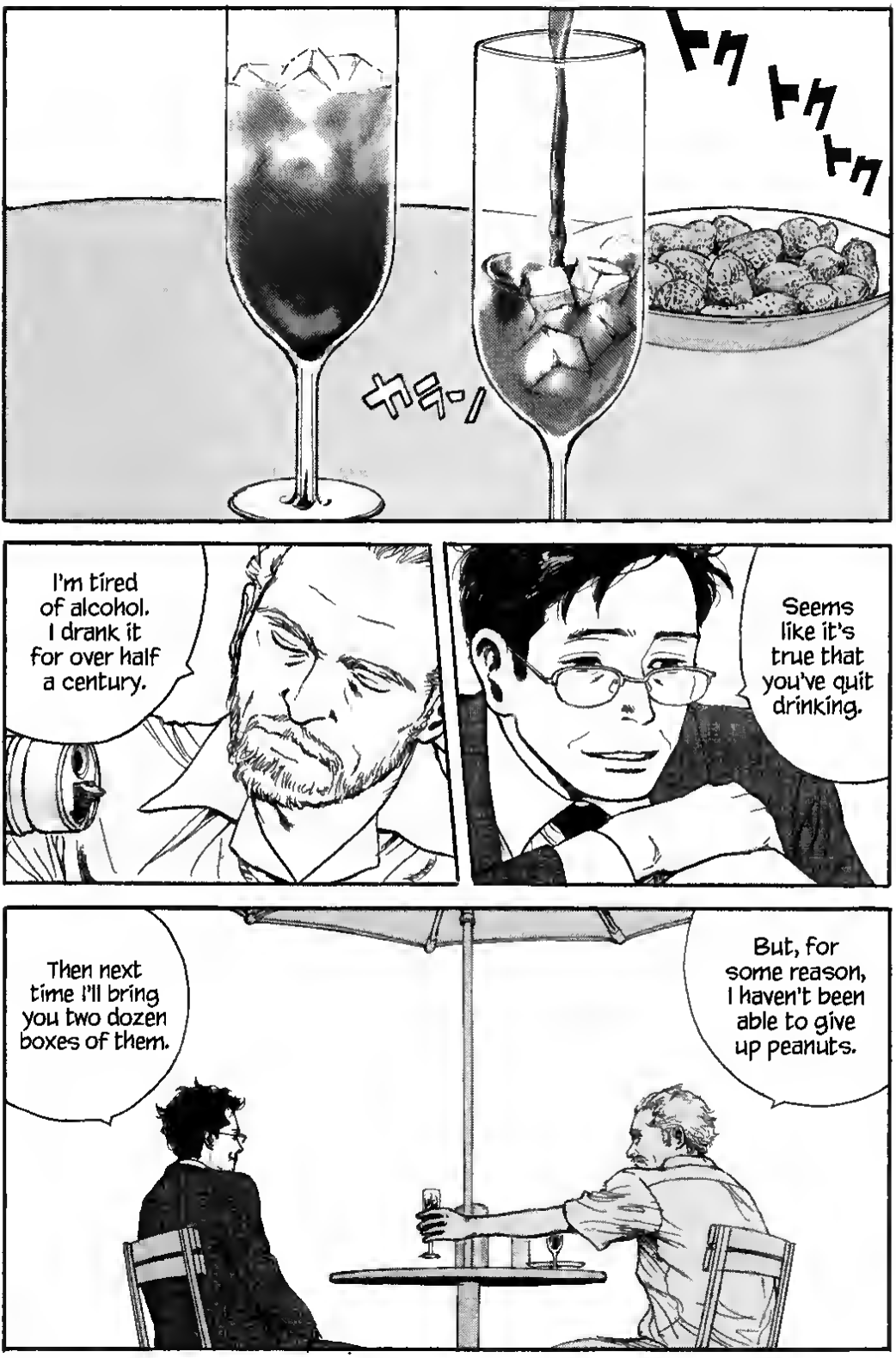


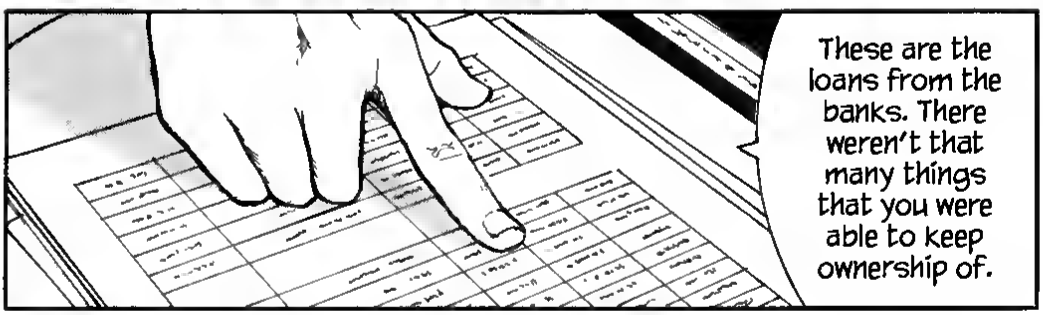

Oh, you've come.
Now this is quite refined of you.


Nah, this was just the thing to break in the new car.
Sorry for dragging you out here.

カラン

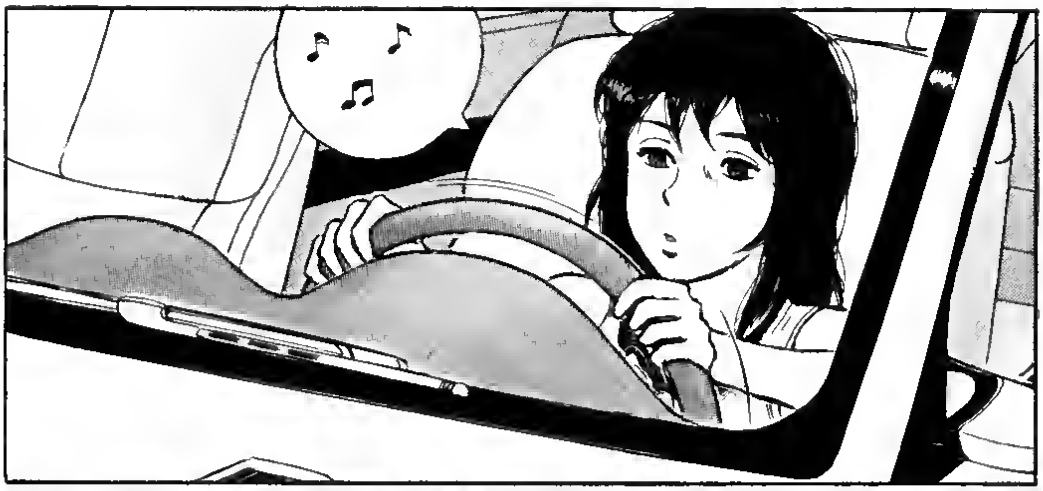
Would you like some ice coffee?
パコ


トク トクトク
カラーン
I'm tired of alcohol. I drank it for over half a century.
Seems like it's true that you've quit drinking.
Then next time I'll bring you two dozen boxes of them.
But, for some reason, I haven't been able to give up peanuts.


These are the loans from the banks. There weren't that many things that you were able to keep ownership of.

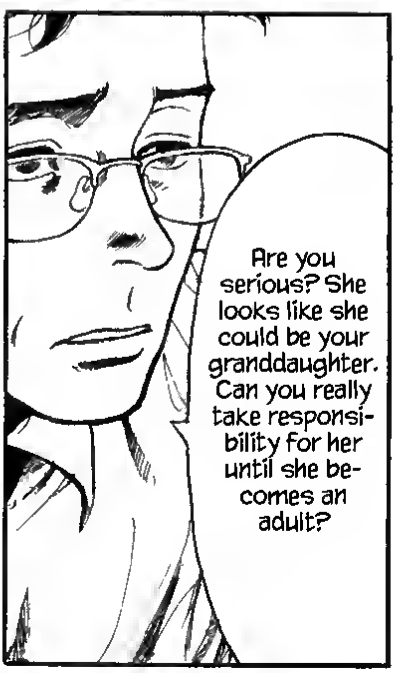
How much is left after it's all said and done?
About five hundred million yen in cash, along with this property and a truck.

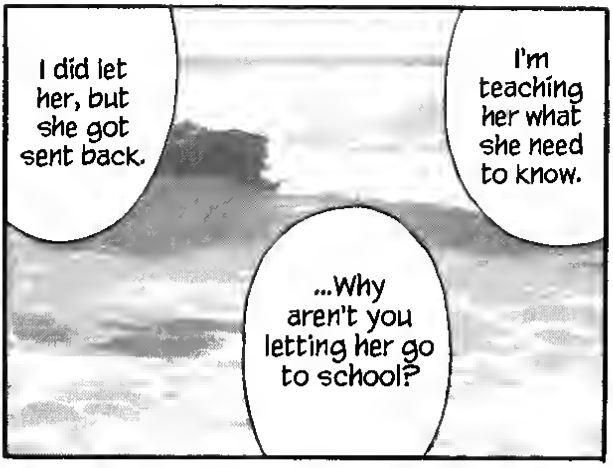
So...
What do you plan on doing, now that you've parted ways with everyone?
Nothing in particular. Just going to take it easy for a bit.
So even Hiyama, "The Demon", is left completely despondent when his right-hand man up and dies on him.
And what do you plan on doing with that kid?
This was only supposed to be until Furukawa got better, right? Does she have any other relatives?
I've adopted her. That means she's your sister.
What!?
I'm going to take care of her.



ガチャ ガチャ

I know that.
Well, I've been considering all those sorts of things.
Is that girl even going to school?
This is a lot different from keeping a dog or a cat as a memento of a friend.

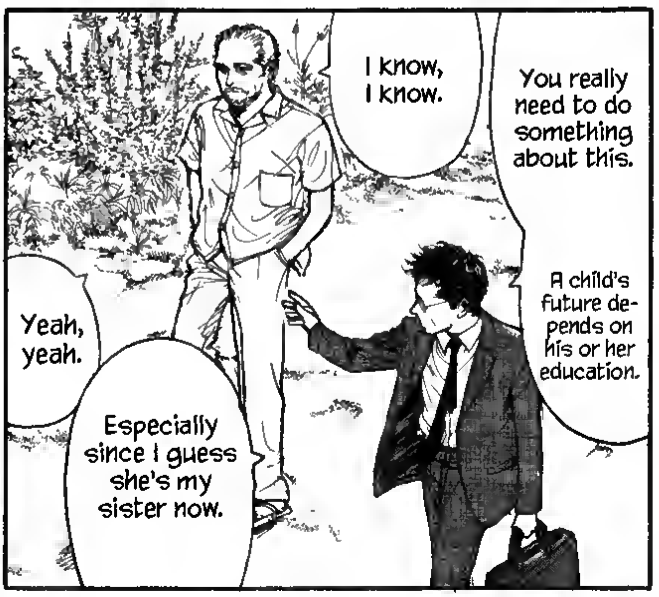

Are you serious? She looks like she could be your granddaughter. Can you really take responsibility for her until she becomes an adult?


I did let her, but she got sent back.
I'm teaching her what she need to know.
...Why aren't you letting her go to school?

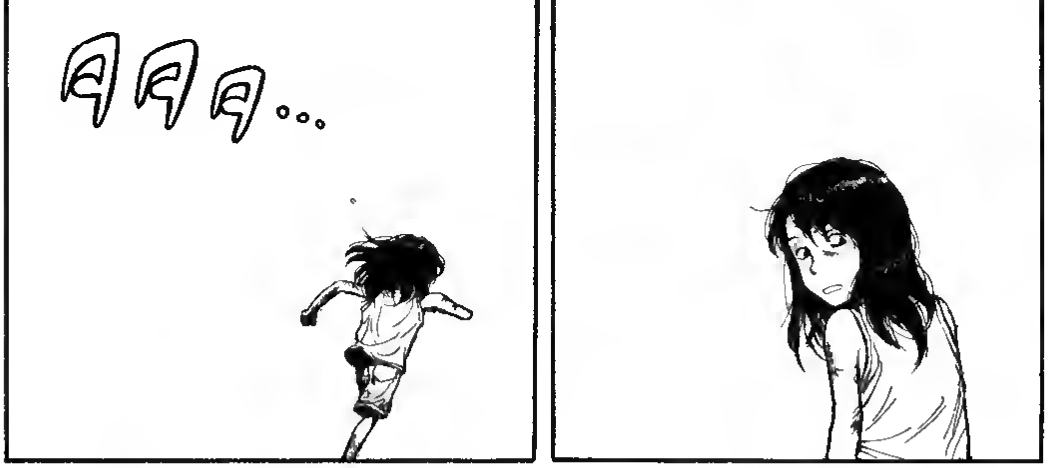
Well, I don't have much time to spare. We'll have to leave it for next time.

Huh? Leaving already?
And I went to all that effort preparing sea bass and wine too.
Should it come to it, I wouldn't have a problem taking her from her home to school everyday.
That girl's got a long future ahead of her, unlike you. You need to think this through more thoroughly.

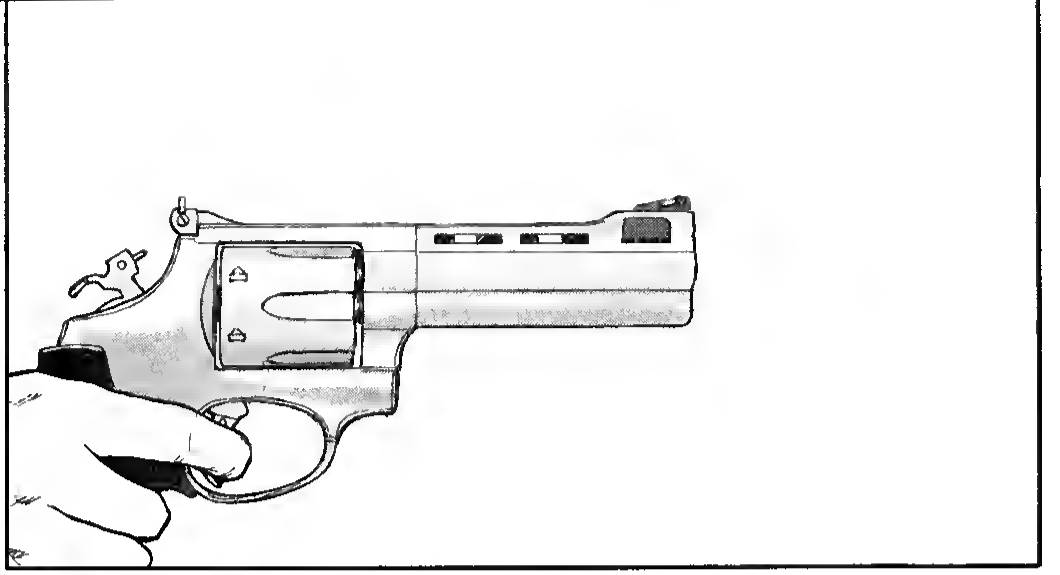
VROOM VROOOM
Huh?

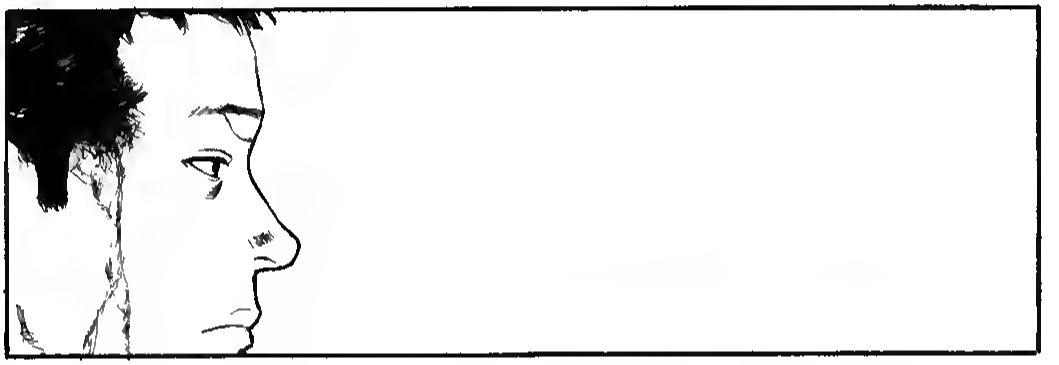

I know, I know.
You really need to do something about this.
A child's future depends on his or her education.
Yeah, yeah.
Especially since I guess she's my sister now.

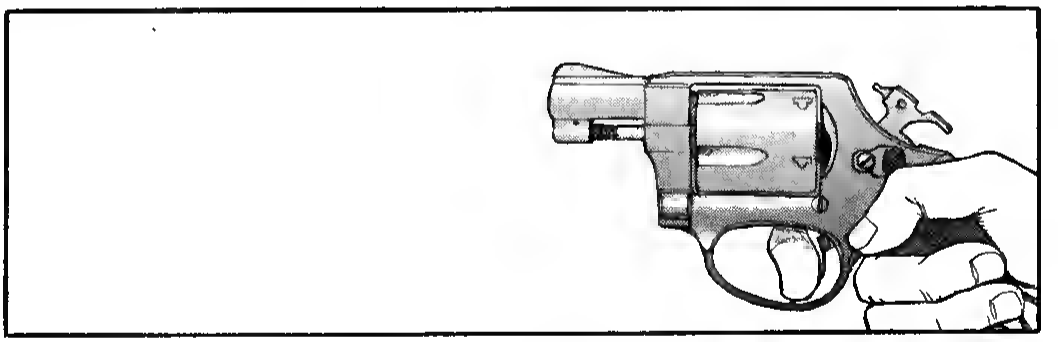
DAMN! The keys!
HONK HONK
SCREEEE
Hey! You all right?

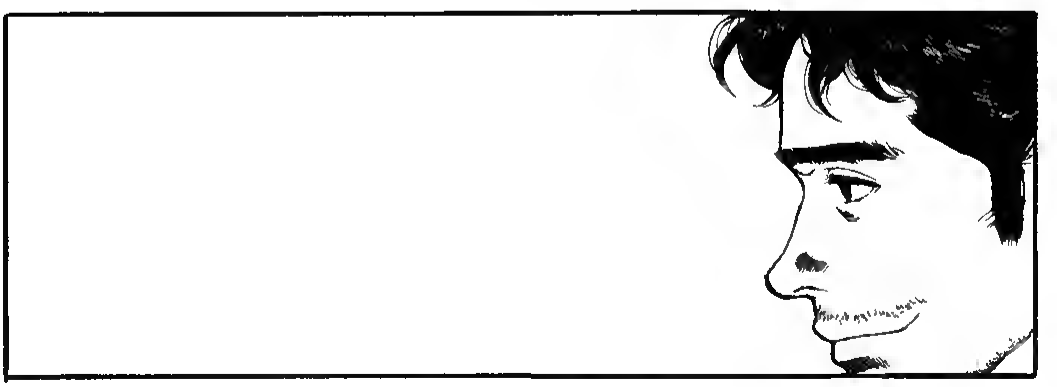


Chapter 05 END





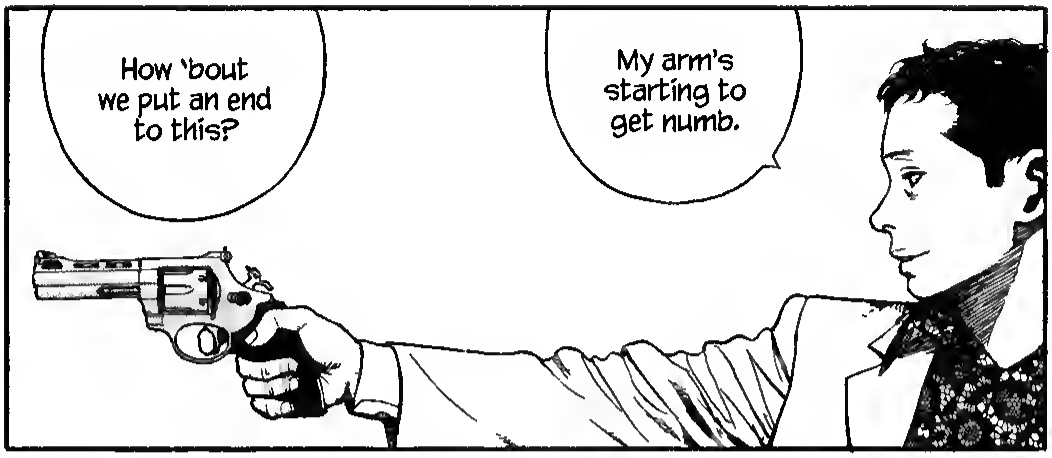




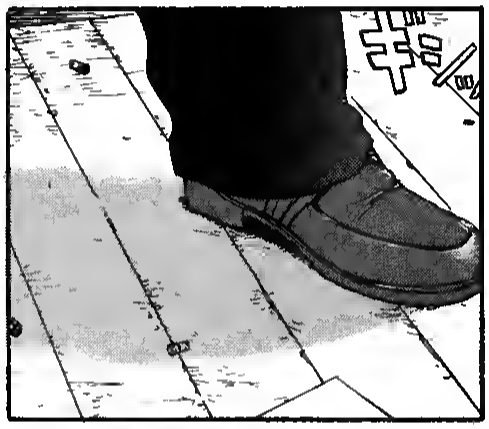
Chapter 06

Hate to see you go

It's been half an hour already.
...How long you gonna keep this up?
If you got the balls and the bullets to.
Why don't you just go ahead and shoot, then?
Neither of us know if the other's got either left...
's why we look like idiots holdin' a starin' contest.

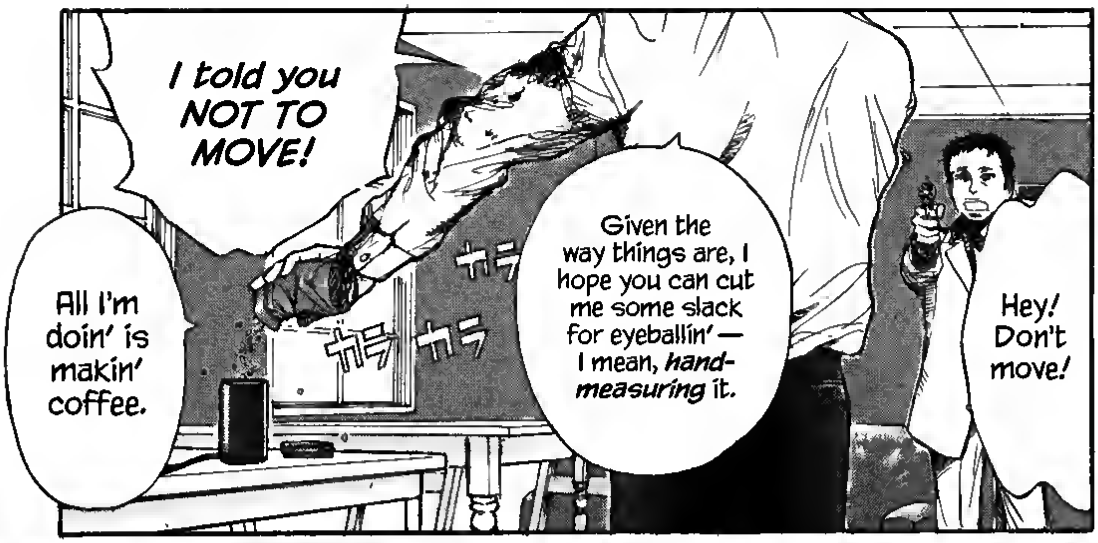

How 'bout we put an end to this?
My arm's starting to get numb.

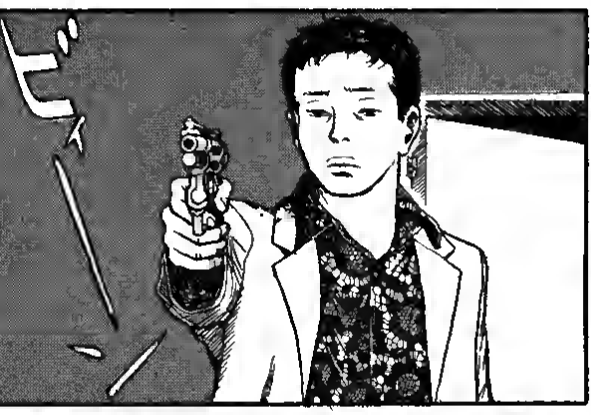
!



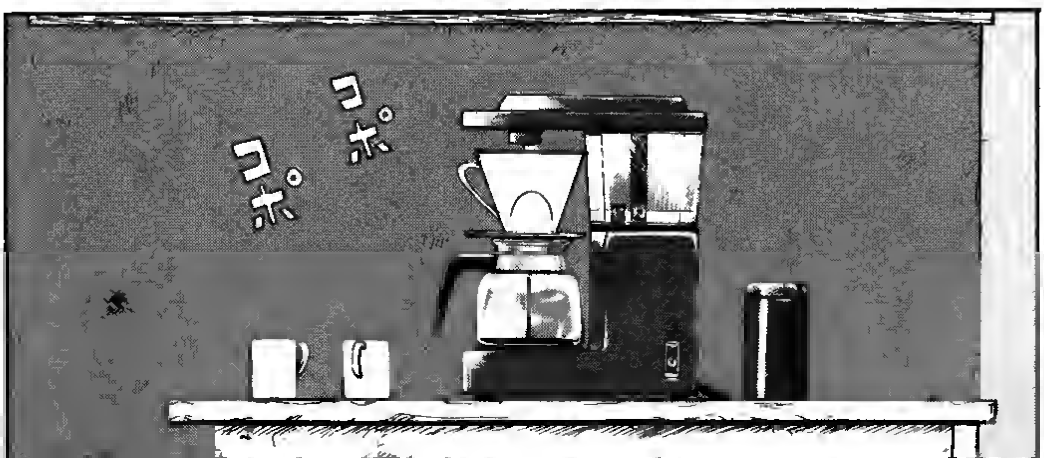
Coffee?

You fancy some coffee?
Hold on.

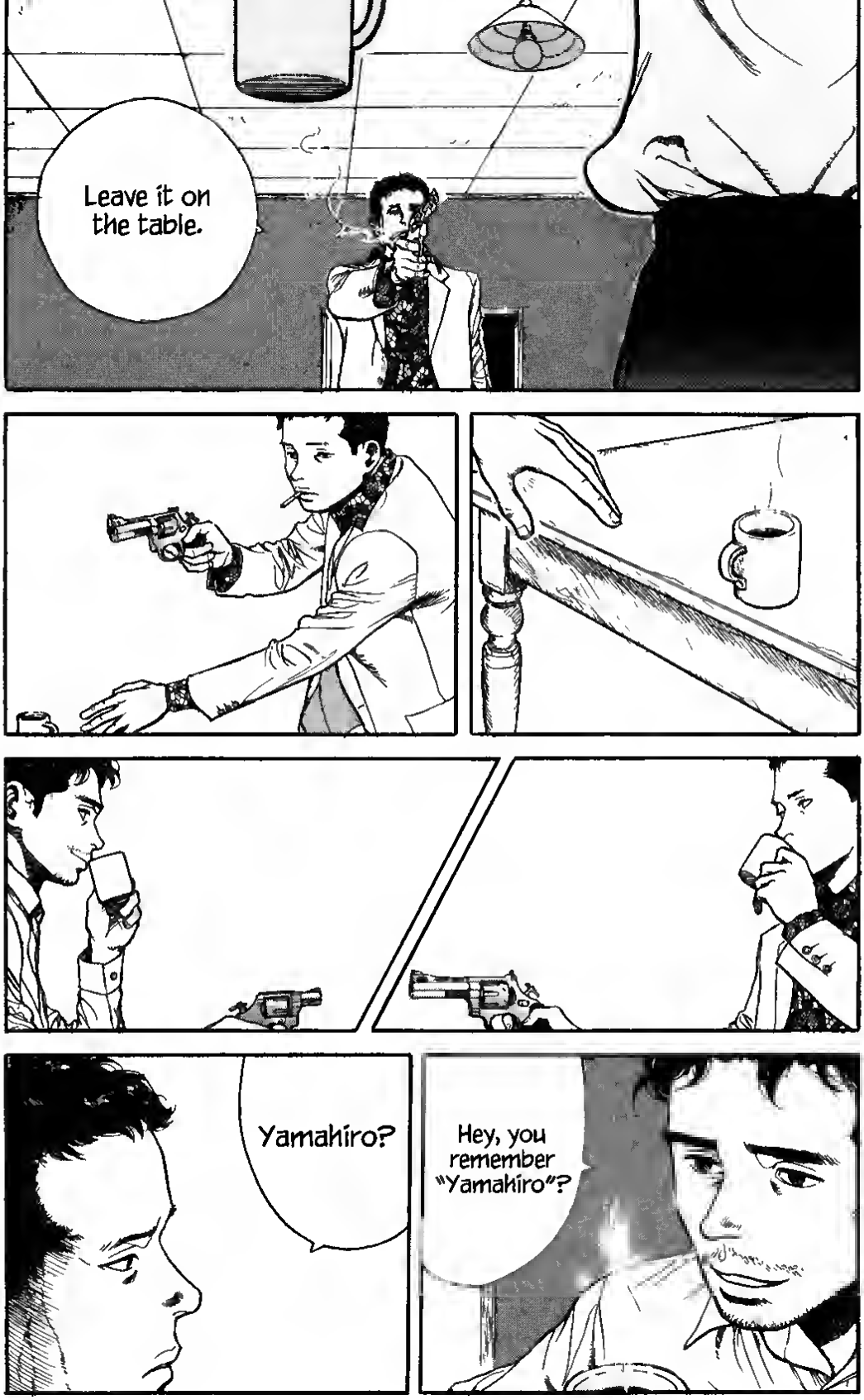

I told you NOT TO MOVE!
All I'm doin' is makin' coffee.
Given the way things are, I hope you can cut me some slack for eyeballin' — I mean, *hand-measuring* it.
Hey! Don't move!


ゴゥ

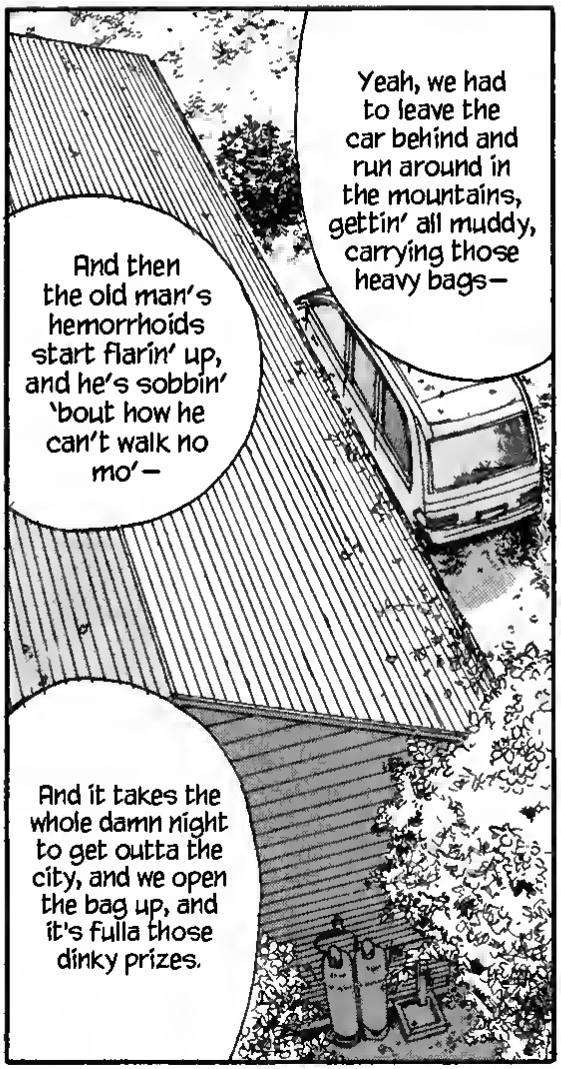
We've already come this far. No need to be in a rush to off each other.
CHICK


コポ
コポ

SWOOSH
カサッ
ゴト
Heh.
I thought you might be coming, so I made sure I had some of that blend you like.
Smells good.


Leave it on the table.
Yamahiro?
Hey, you remember "Yamahiro"?

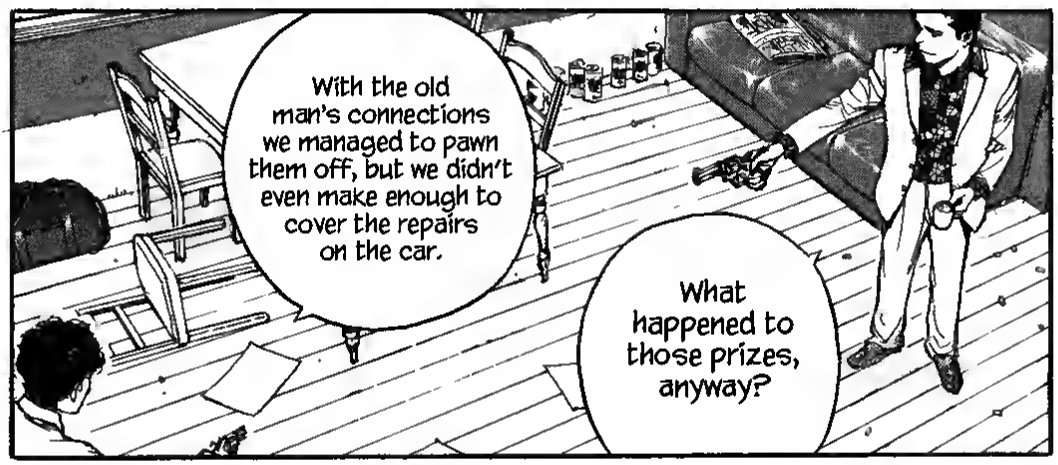
Yeah, yeah, that job we did with old man Shiga.
The Gunma Pachinko Place? Tryin' to steal that bribe money?


Yeah, we had to leave the car behind and run around in the mountains, gettin' all muddy, carrying those heavy bags—
And then the old man's hemorrhoids start flarin' up, and he's sobbin' 'bout how he can't walk no mo'—
And it takes the whole damn night to get outta the city, and we open the bag up, and it's fulla those dinky prizes.

How could I fuhgettaboutit? Never had anythin' go so bad before.

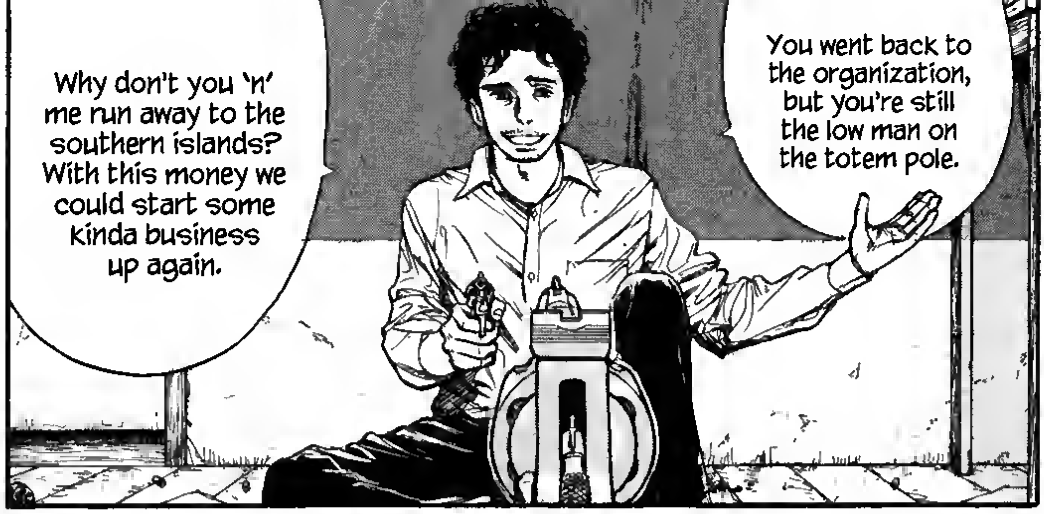
When we were gettin' away, we lost control and got stuck in that rice paddy.

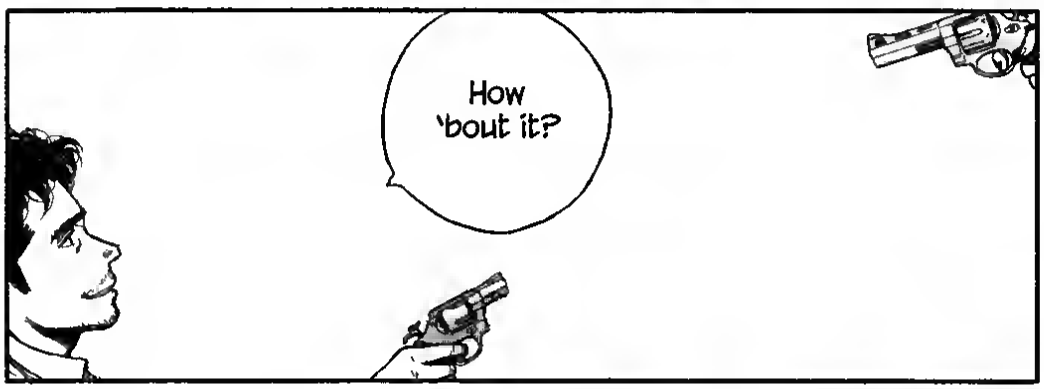
And we felt like we could do anythin'.
Back then, we wanted to pull off somethin' big...

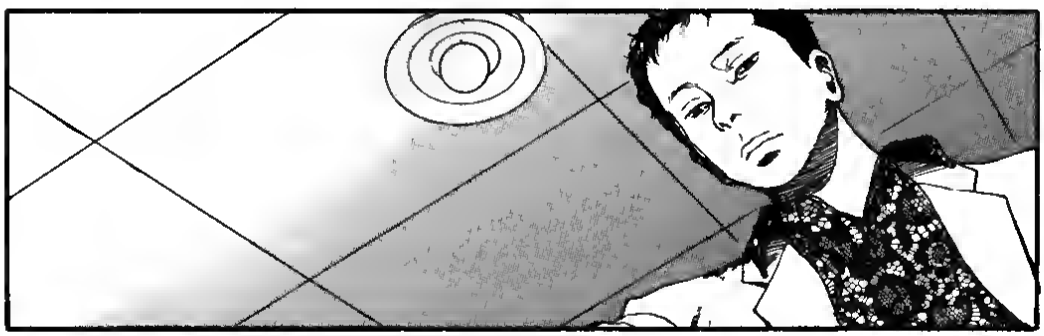

With the old man's connections we managed to pawn them off, but we didn't even make enough to cover the repairs on the car.
What happened to those prizes, anyway?

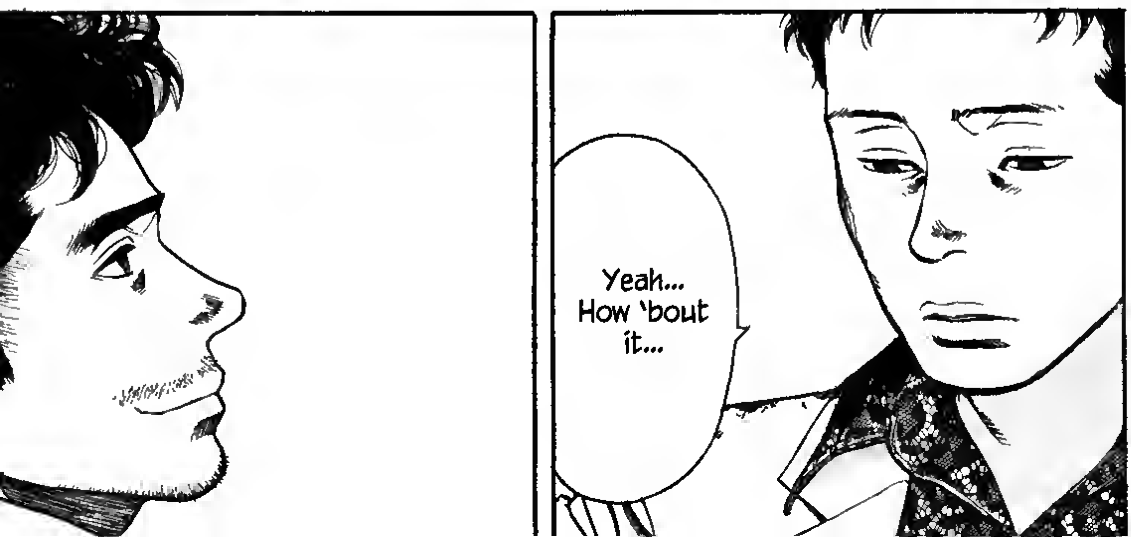
'dja really think you could get away scot-free?
Why'd you hafta try somethin' like stealin' money from the family?

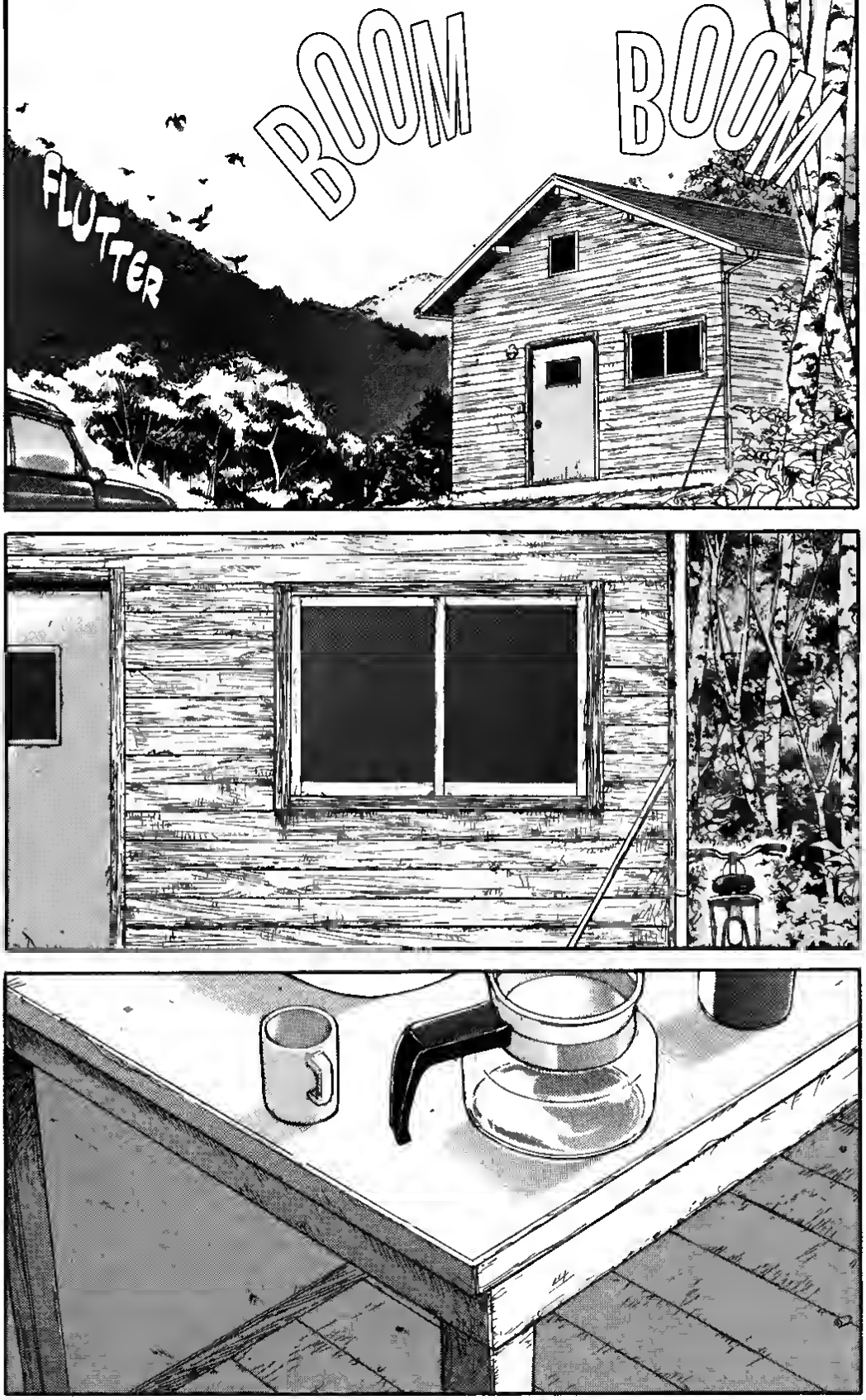
But I didn't have a choice... I just didn't have a choice...
Yeah, I know...
if I'm gonna die, I'm glad you're the one killin' me.
But you know,
What?
...How's about we quit this?


Why don't you 'n' me run away to the southern islands? With this money we could start some kinda business up again.
You went back to the organization, but you're still the low man on the totem pole.


How 'bout it?

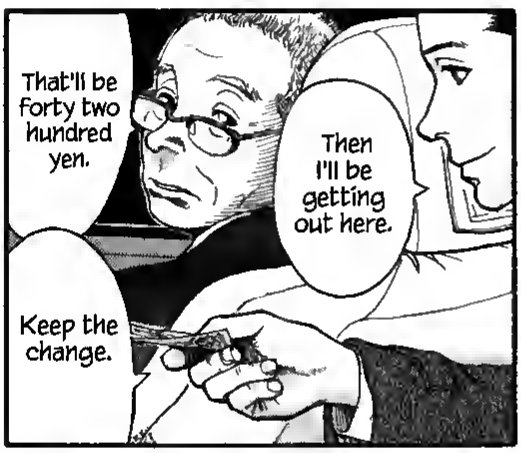



Yeah... How 'bout it...


BOOM
BOOM
FLUTTER

ガチャッ

Would you like to come up for some coffee?
中央 4179 無線


That'll be forty two hundred yen.
Then I'll be getting out here.
Keep the change.

May I?
Please do.

ブオオ

ウィ――ン
コッ
コッ
スー―ッ

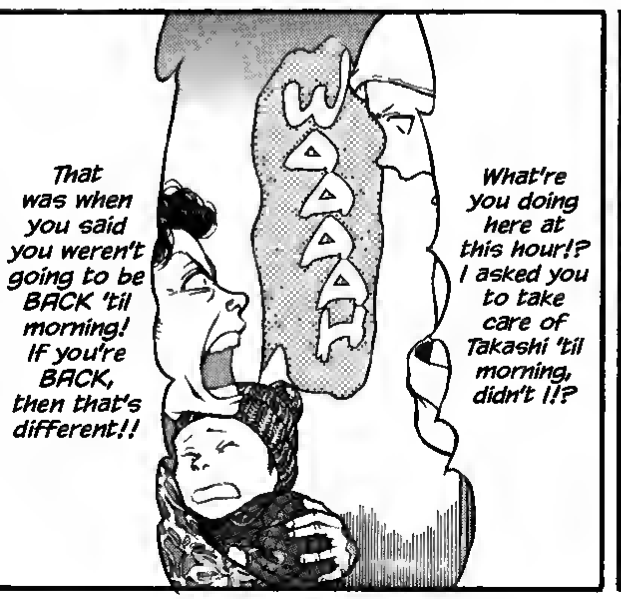
Hang that up over there, please.
Nice place you've got.
Go ahead.
I'm going to go take a short shower.
ドアを閉める

DING DONG
DING DONG

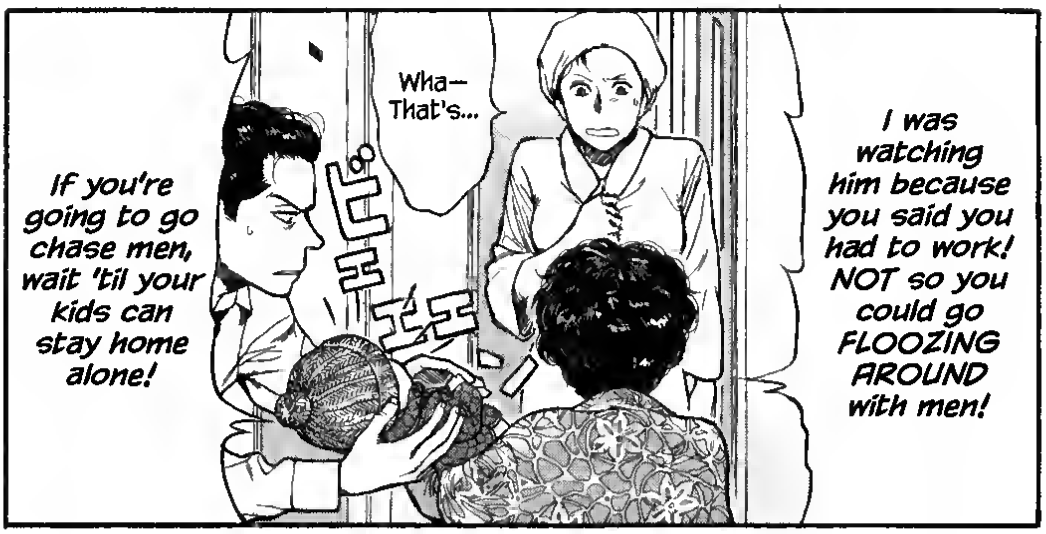
DING DONG DING DONG
DING DONG
DING DONG
You're there, aren't you!? Open up! I KNOW you're back!!
BANG BANG BANG BANG
Uh, hold on...
...?
BANG BANG

Could you please keep it down?
Oh my! How awful! What IS this!?

ズズズズ
She's having someone else watch over her child while she goes off chasing men!?
And I even told her I have work tomorrow! What does she THINK she's doing!?


WOAAH
What're you doing here at this hour!? I asked you to take care of Takashi 'til morning, didn't I!?
That was when you said you weren't going to be BACK 'til morning! If you're BACK, then that's different!!

No, look... Uh..
I REALLY WISH she'd shape up!!
UUU...
Auntie...!?


Wha—
That's...
ビエエエ
If you're going to go chase men, wait 'til your kids can stay home alone!
I was watching him because you said you had to work! NOT so you could go FLOOZING AROUND with men!

MY LORD!! You've become such a shameless hussy! Your mother must be crying in her grave!
You have NO RIGHT to talk to me that way!!

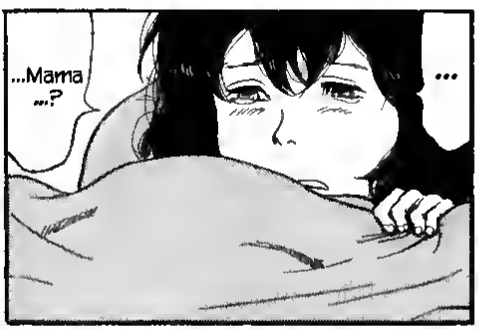
There, there.
There, there... Don't cry.
エエエー!
エエエー!

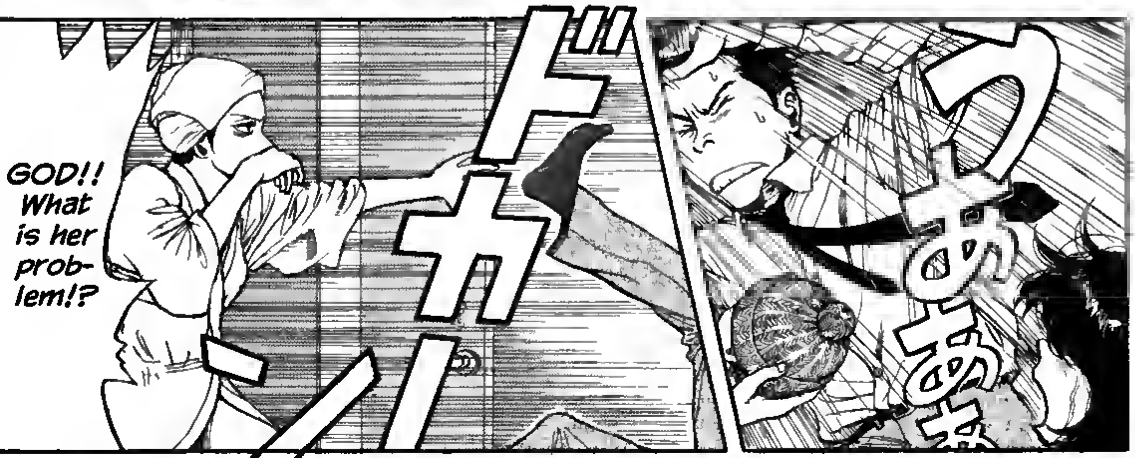
...!!
ビエエエエエー

C'mon, good boy, good boy.
Uuu...
SOB
Au...
Au...
There, there.

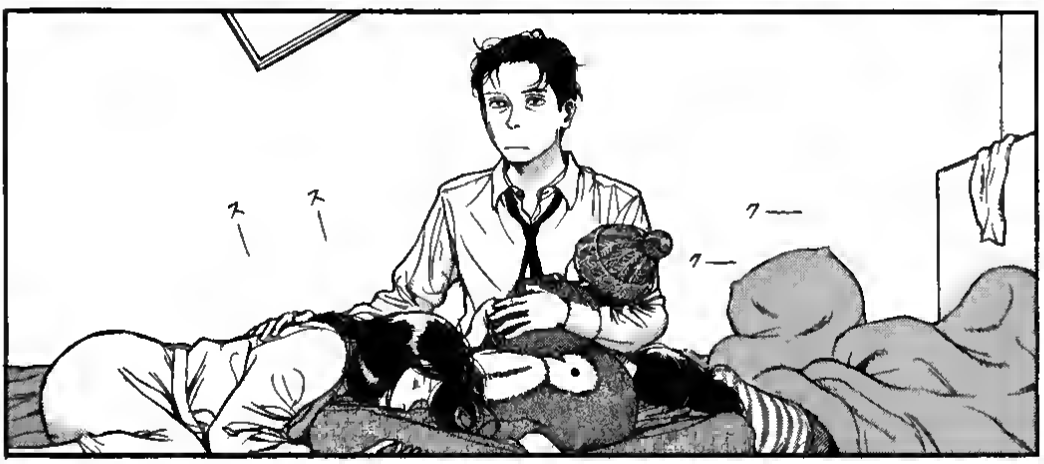
Buu...
Au...

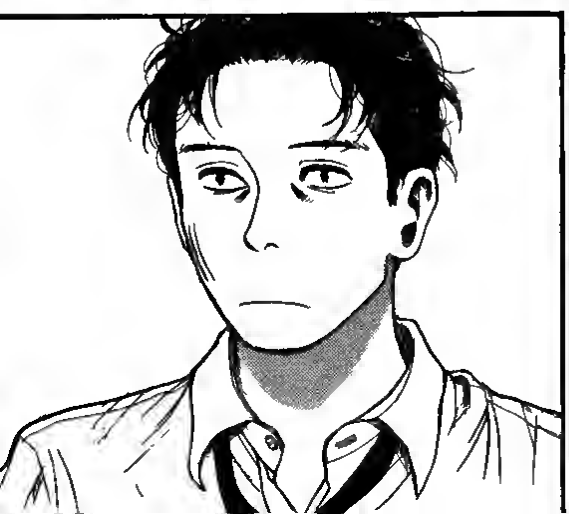
No, wait!
Uu...


...Mama ...?
...


GOD!! What is her problem!?
ドカーン
うあ

I feel guilty having to always ask her to watch the kids, but she didn't need to come here to say all that at a time like this!!
TOSS
Talking to me like I'm some STUPID BIMBO. Generally I'm a proper mother through and through!
I try to make up for it by making their lunches every day and reading picture books to them!!
Yeah, it's lonely for the kids 'cause I work at night, but what would we do without any money!? After all, my husband ran out on me!
Moving to such a RIDICULOUSLY PRICY apartment building was all for the sake of Mayu's allergies! 'Cause they don't use those new building materials here!!
Uuuu...
...
...I... try so hard...
Uwaaahhhh!
Waaaah! Mama—!
Hey, c'mon, don't cry—
Aghh! OW! OW! OW!
I hate everyone!! SO MUCH!! You're all so STUPID!!
WAAAH!


スー
スー
クー
クー

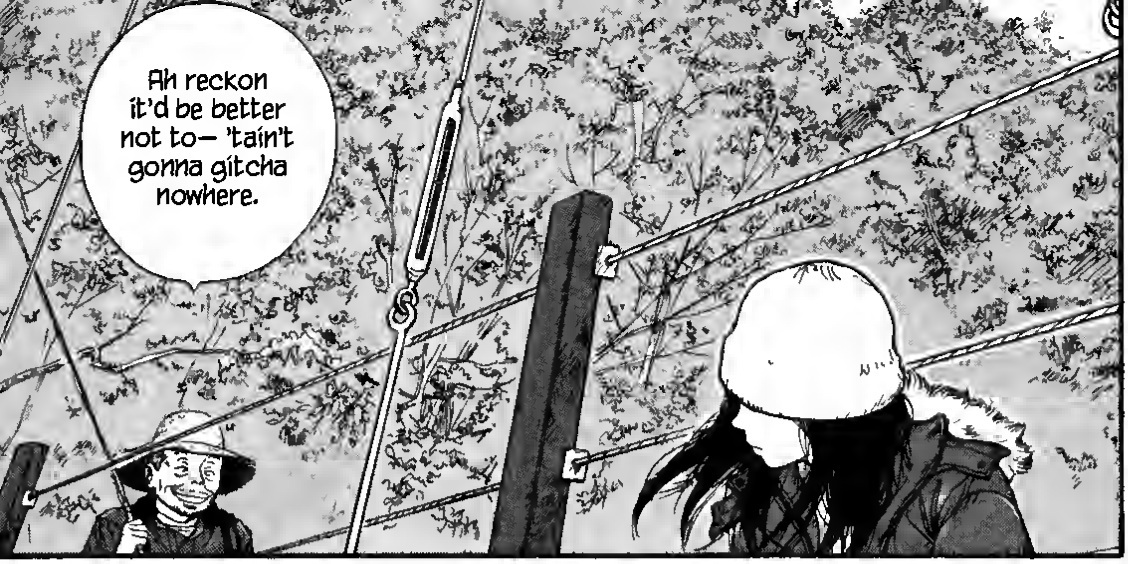


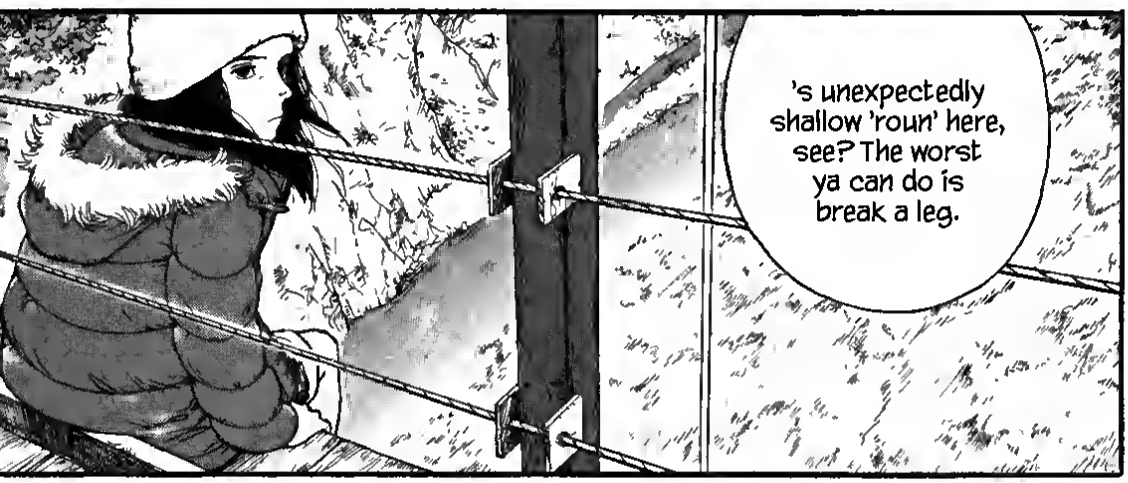
スー
スー

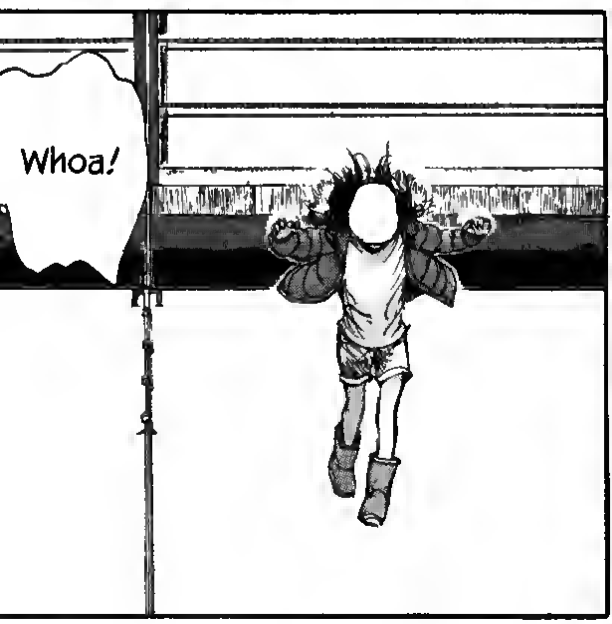
ガーー
フーー
ガ
I forgot about the coffee.
Oh-

Chapter 08 Little Girl Blue

Gonna jump off?


Ah reckon it'd be better not to— 'tain't gonna gitcha nowhere.

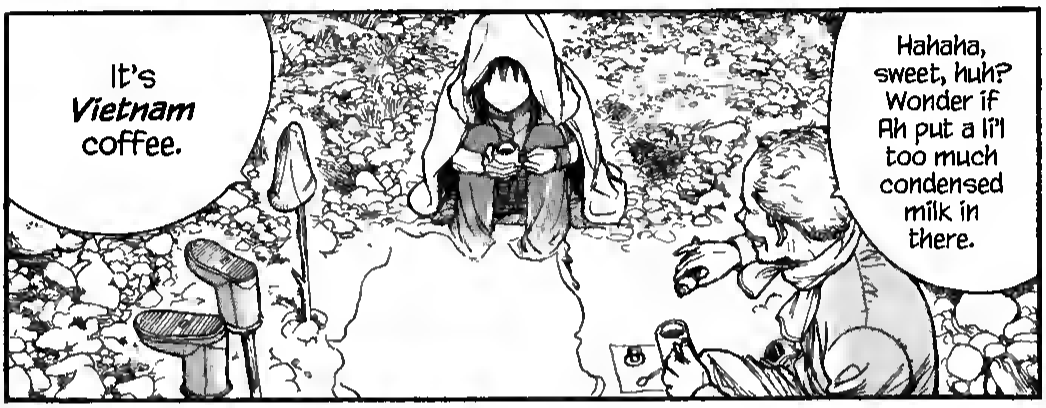

's unexpectedly shallow 'roun' here, see? The worst ya can do is break a leg.


Whoa!

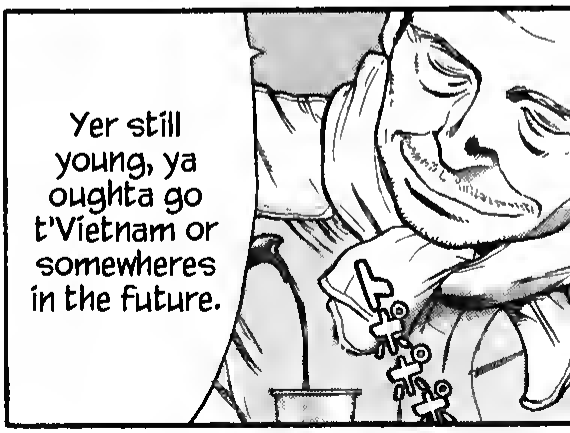
And in this cold, if ya git soaked, then...

Aw, dag-nabbit!
Tarnation!
Hup!
パチ
パチ
ガパーン

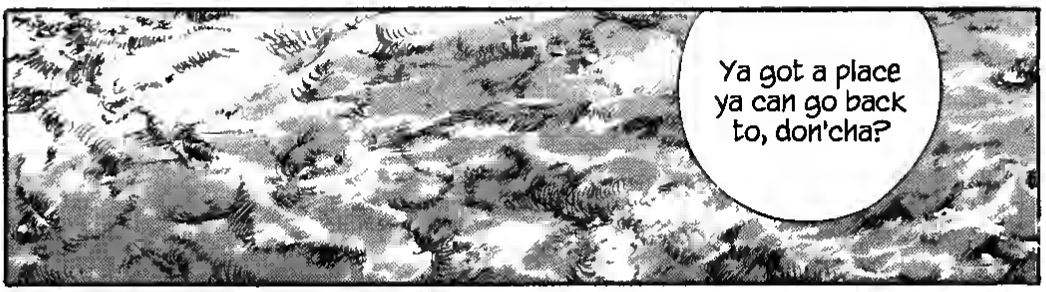
SHIVER SHIVER
SHIVER SHIVER
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
DUDE
DUDE
DUDE
That's what Ah said. You okay?
C'mon, it'll warm ya up, drink it.


It's *Vietnam* coffee.
Hahaha, sweet, huh? Wonder if Ah put a li'l too much condensed milk in there.

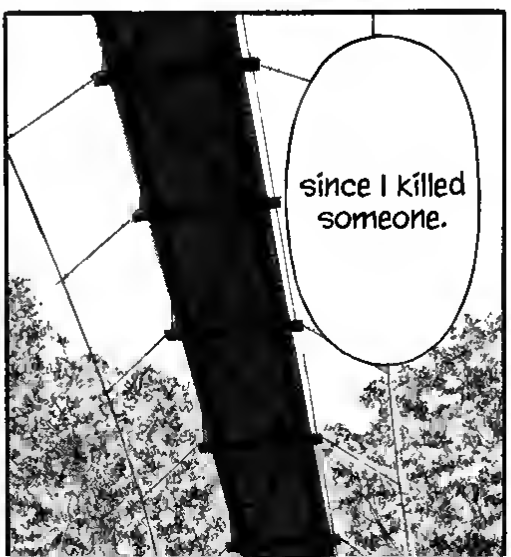
...
Hey, ya ever been t'Vietnam?


Yer still young, ya oughta go t'Vietnam or somewheres in the future.

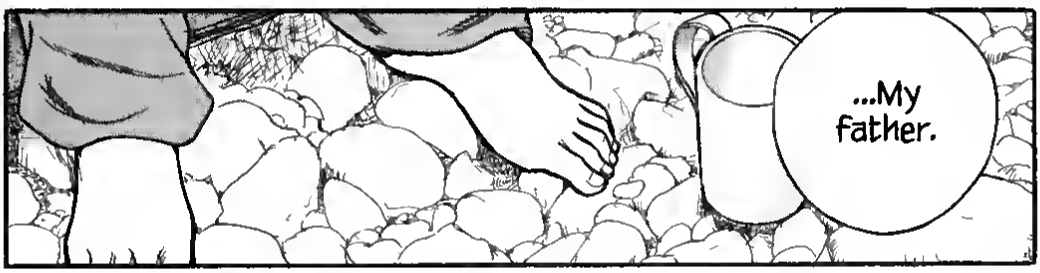
Where ya live? If yer feelin' calmer now, Ah'll sendja on home.


Ya got a place ya can go back to, don'cha?

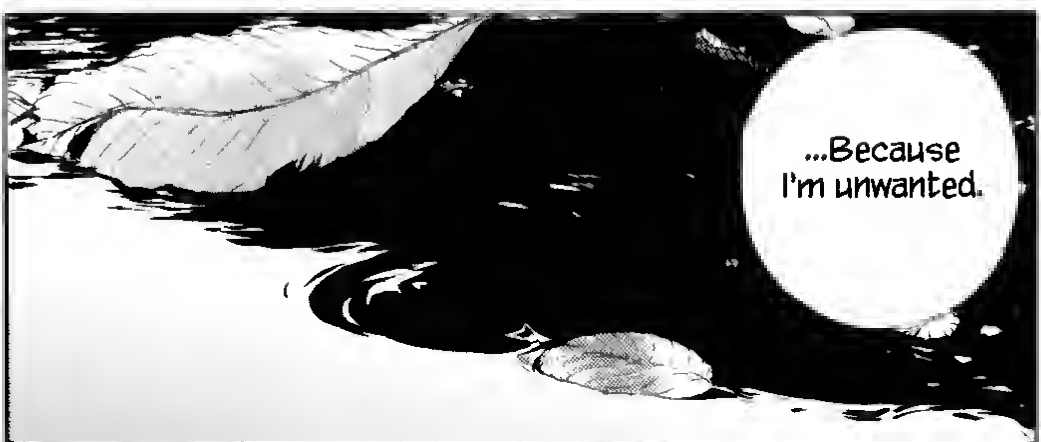
I don't have anywhere to go back to...


since I killed someone.

Ya *kilt* someone? Who?


...My father.

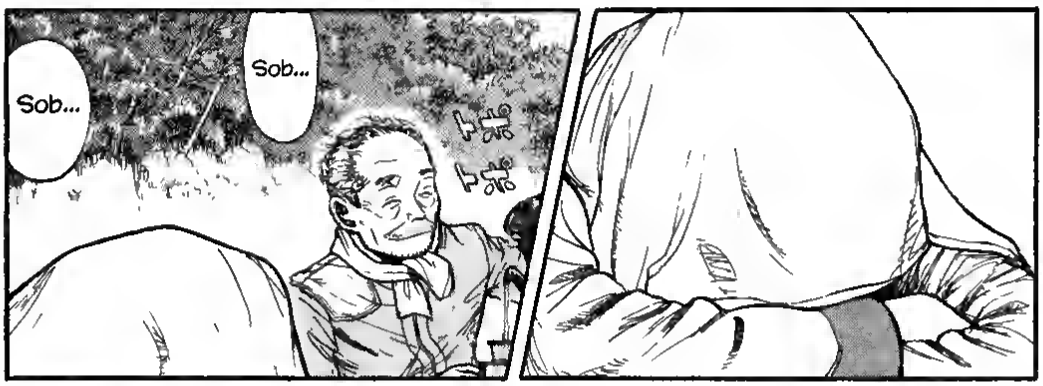
But why'dja—
Hrm.

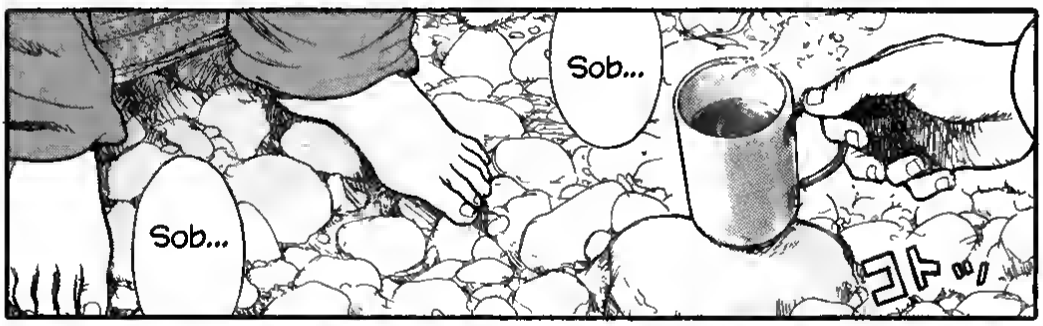

...Because I'm unwanted.

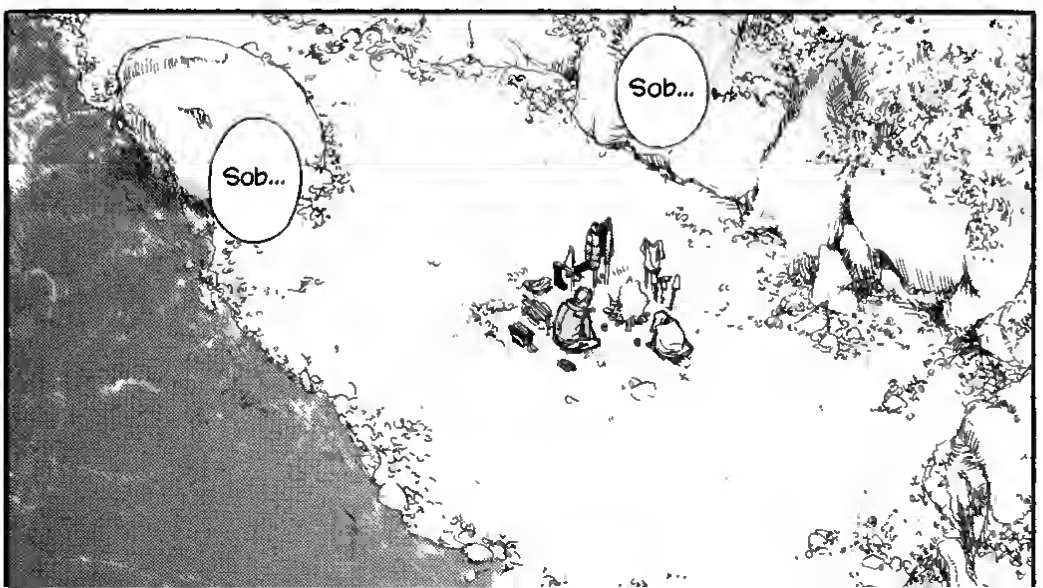
...I came home late, and my father beat me... So I stabbed him with the kitchen knife.
...Unwanted?
He always has.
My father hates me.
...This wouldn't have happened if I'd been born a boy...
...Yer dad, when ya stabbed 'im, what were ya feelin'?

...I don't know.
...
"This isn't how it's supposed to be..."
...I thought I wanted to kill him, but the moment I stabbed him, I felt like... "This isn't supposed to happen..."
...
RIIING
RIIING
RIIING

Sure, ya got it.
Oh, Ah'll keep an ah on her on this end... Yup.
Oh, 'that so? Okay... Okay.
Yup.
Yup.
yer dad's fine. They say he's alive an' kickin'.
Missy,
He got hurt pretty bad, but 'tain't life-threat'nin'.
Who are you, mister...? A policeman?



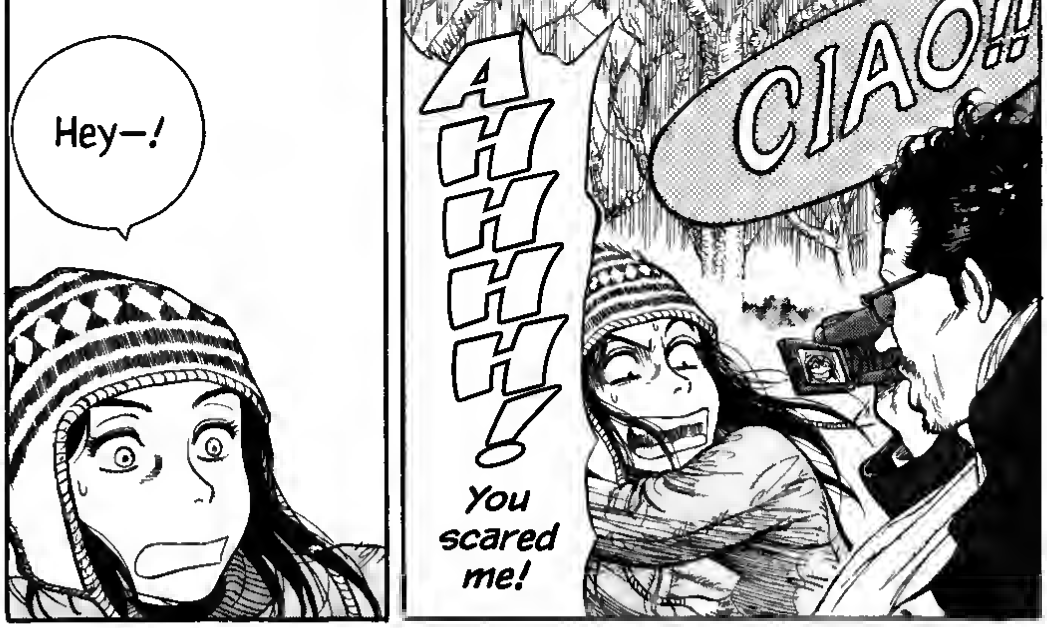


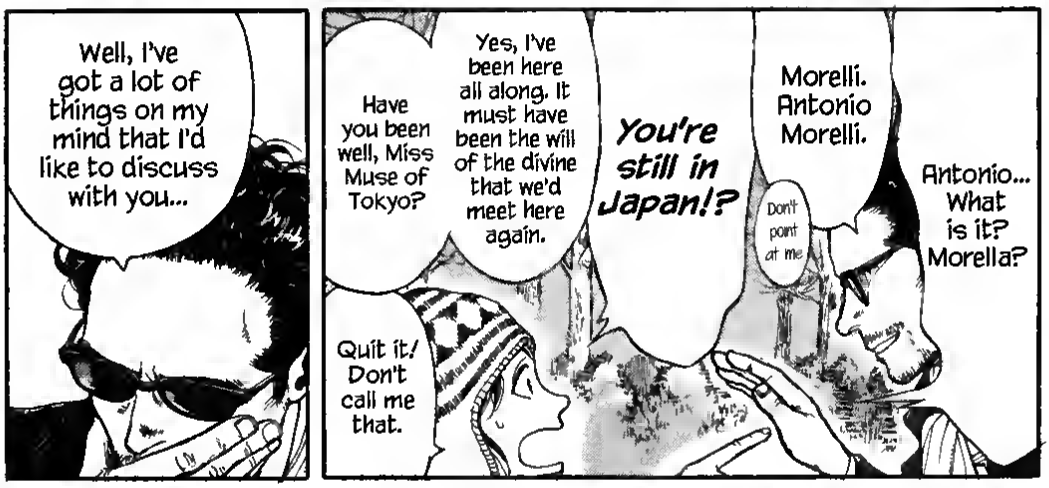


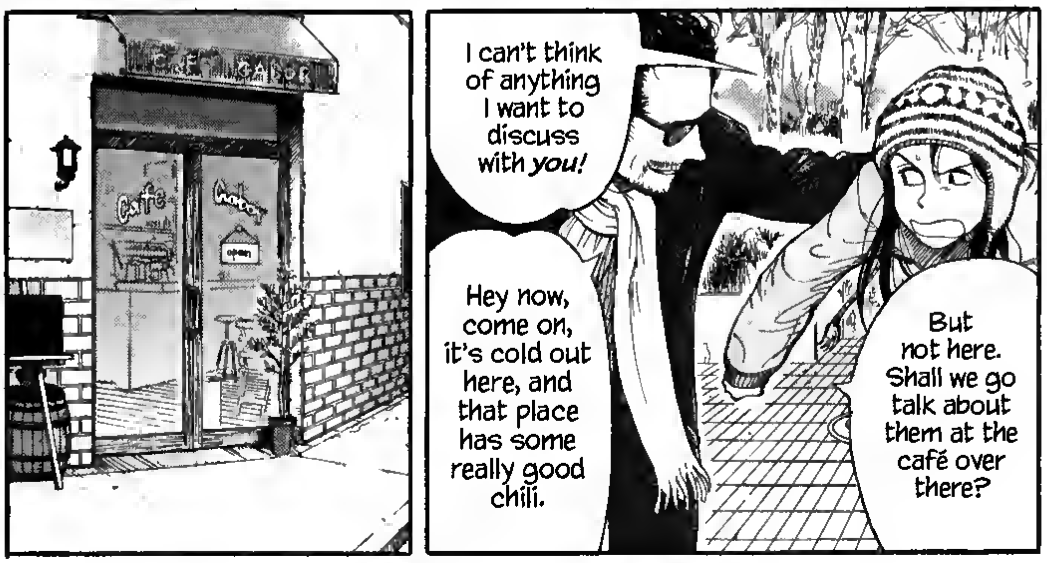
Chapter 08 END

Uh huh...
Uh huh...
What? His hemorrhoids have flared up!? It hurts so much he can't even walk a step!?

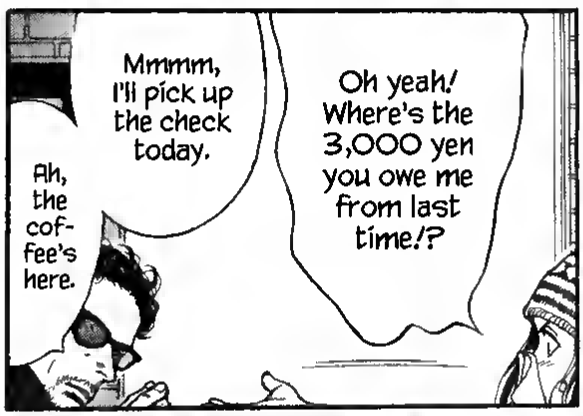
And Shouta? What? A cold? Influenza? His chills won't stop?
Well, I'm about to catch a cold too! I've been waiting out here in the wind for forty minutes already!
Ah, yeah, yeah.
No, we're not gonna *play*; I mean, it looks like it's gonna snow—
Well, I know it's my fault I forgot my cellphone, but still—
Dammit, it's sooo coooold!
Ah, yeah, fine! *Take care then!*
SLAM

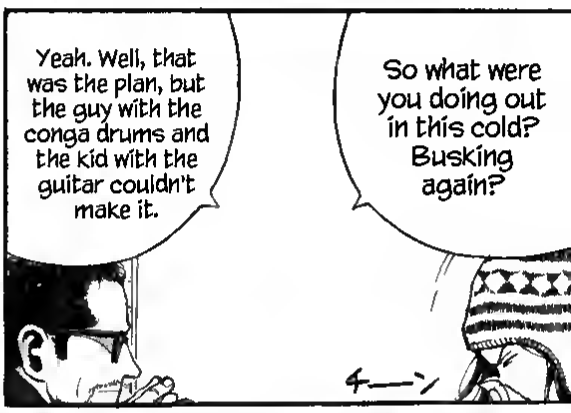

Hey—!
AHHHH!
You scared me!
CIAO!!


Well, I've got a lot of things on my mind that I'd like to discuss with you...
Have you been well, Miss Muse of Tokyo?
Yes, I've been here all along. It must have been the will of the divine that we'd meet here again.
You're still in Japan!?
Quit it! Don't call me that.
Morelli. Antonio Morelli.
Don't point at me
Antonio... What is it? Morella?


I can't think of anything I want to discuss with you!
Hey now, come on, it's cold out here, and that place has some really good chili.
But not here. Shall we go talk about them at the café over there?

One espresso.
I'll have a Viennese coffee.
And two orders of chili.
Okay, an espresso, a Viennese coffee, and two chilis.

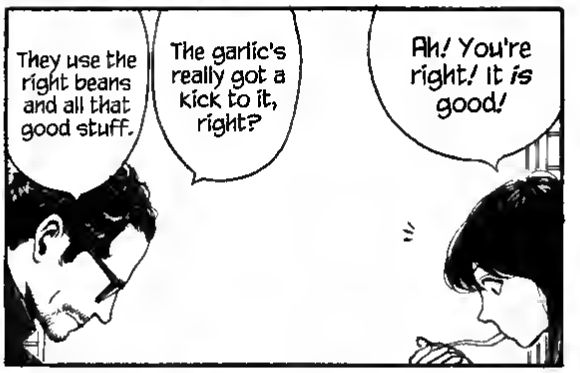

Oh yeah! Where's the 3,000 yen you owe me from last time!?
Mmmm, I'll pick up the check today.
Ah, the cof-fee's here.

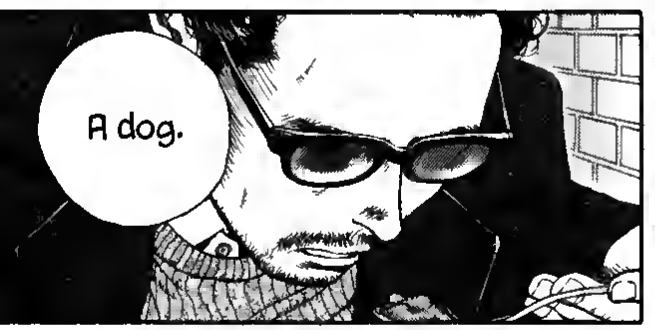

So what were you doing out in this cold? Busking again?
Yeah. Well, that was the plan, but the guy with the conga drums and the kid with the guitar couldn't make it.

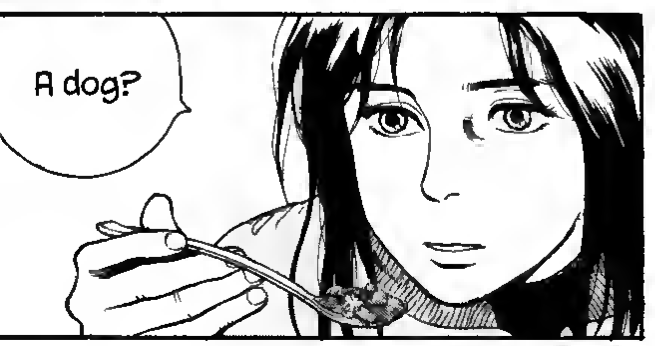
Phew.

Ahhh... It's so good!
Yes, the roast here is especially nice.
And this chili is great, too— Please try some.

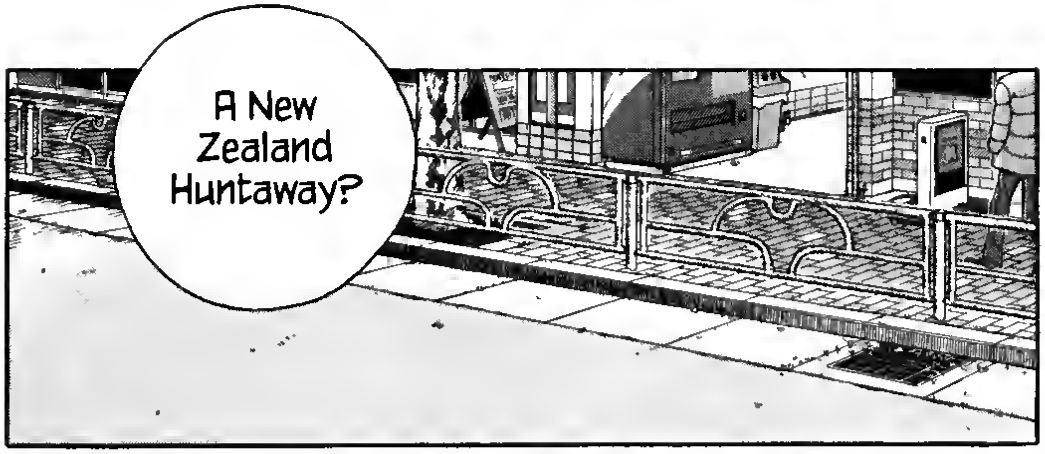
By the way, Mister Director, what were you up to in a place like this? Location hunting again?


They use the right beans and all that good stuff.
The garlic's really got a kick to it, right?
Ah! You're right! It *is* good!

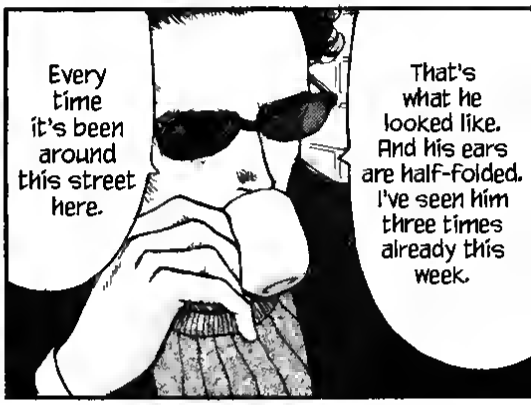

A dog.


A dog?

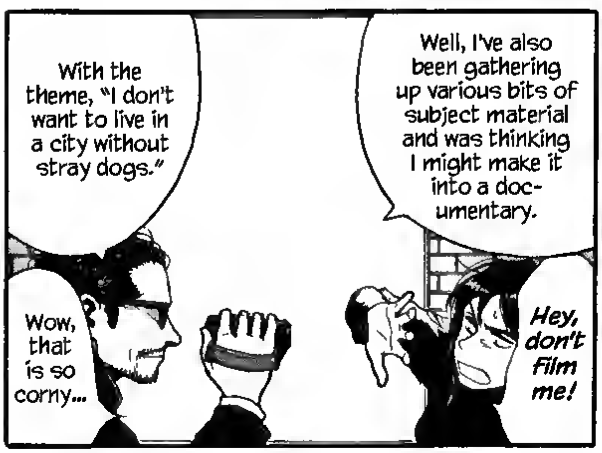
Ah, actually, there's something that I was sort of looking for.
Mm-hmmm. What were you looking for?

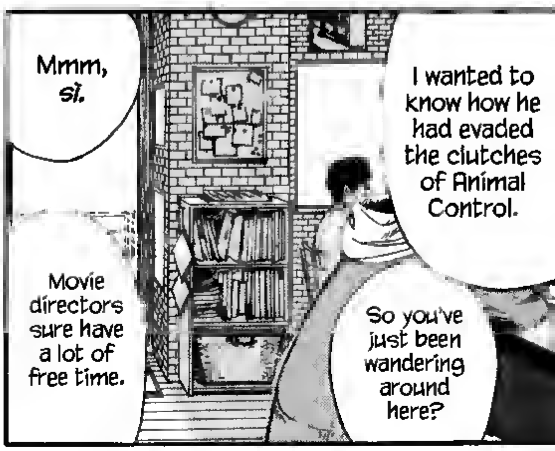

A New Zealand Huntaway?

The third time I saw him, he even managed to steal the bread I was carrying.
A stray dog?

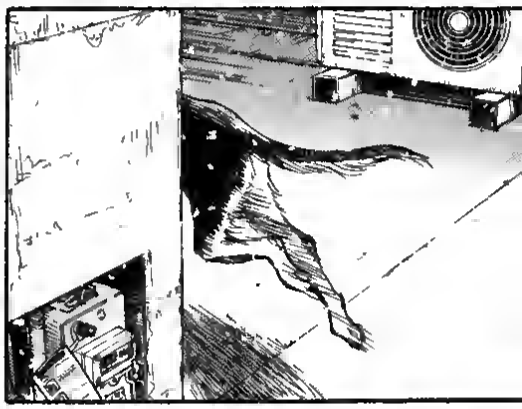

Every time it's been around this street here.
That's what he looked like. And his ears are half-folded. I've seen him three times already this week.

But is Tokyo really a city where a stray dog could survive for long?
Well... He has a collar so... He might be a dog that someone once owned but later abandoned. In any case, it must be because of the recession.

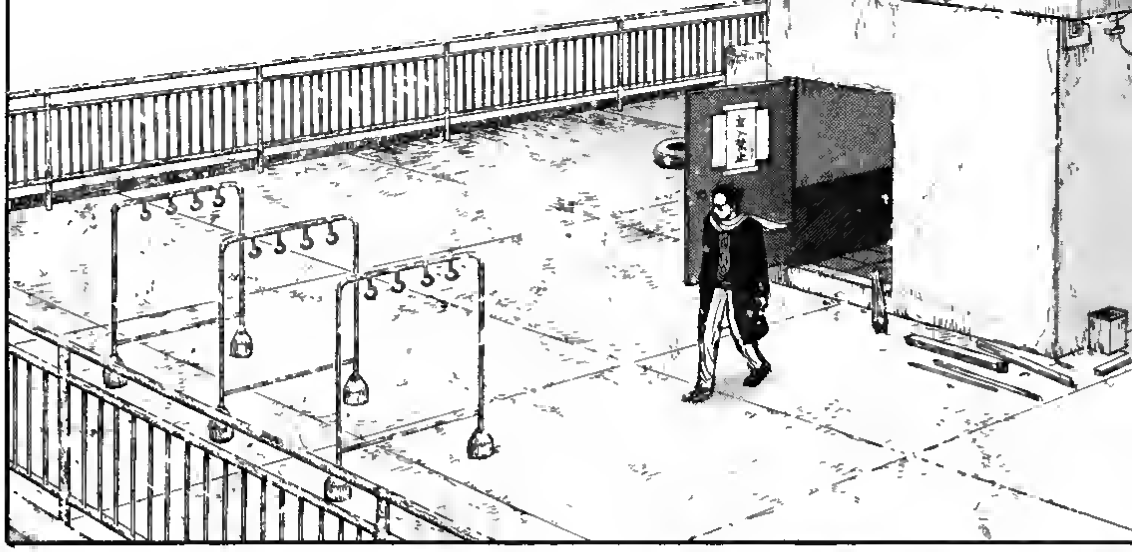

With the theme, "I don't want to live in a city without stray dogs."
Well, I've also been gathering up various bits of subject material and was thinking I might make it into a documentary.
Wow, that is so corny...
Hey, don't film me!


Mmm, si.
I wanted to know how he had evaded the clutches of Animal Control.
Movie directors sure have a lot of free time.
So you've just been wandering around here?

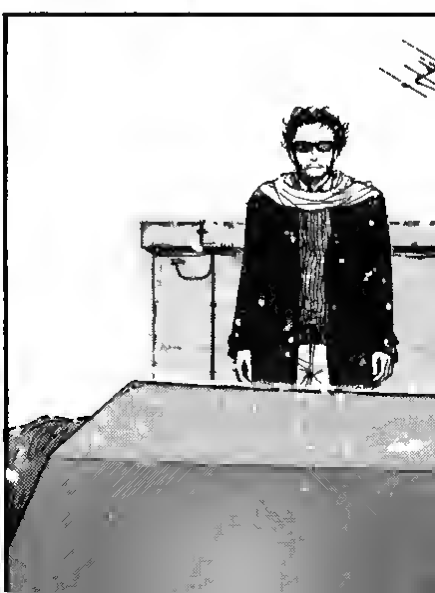
It must be nice to be a movie director or a mangaka... No matter what you do, you can call it work.
Oh, it's snowing.
Sorry, but could you take care of it?
Ah— Again!?
He's here.
Huh?
AAA

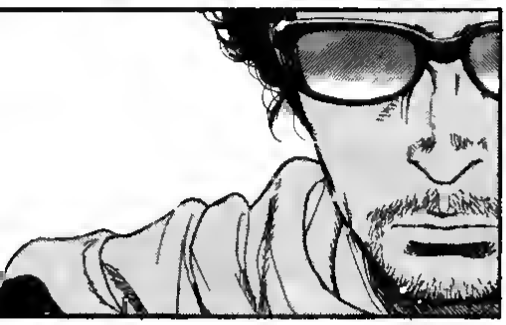


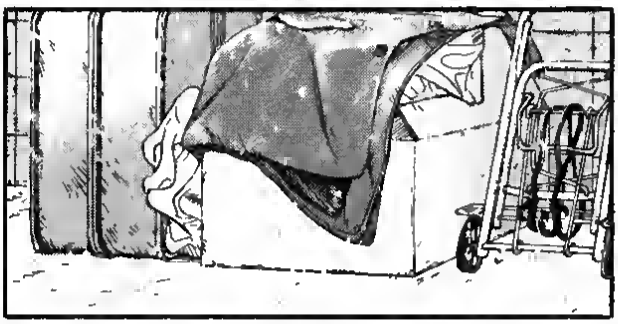
ダッ
カッ
カッ
カッ
カッ
カッ
バ
ン
入禁止

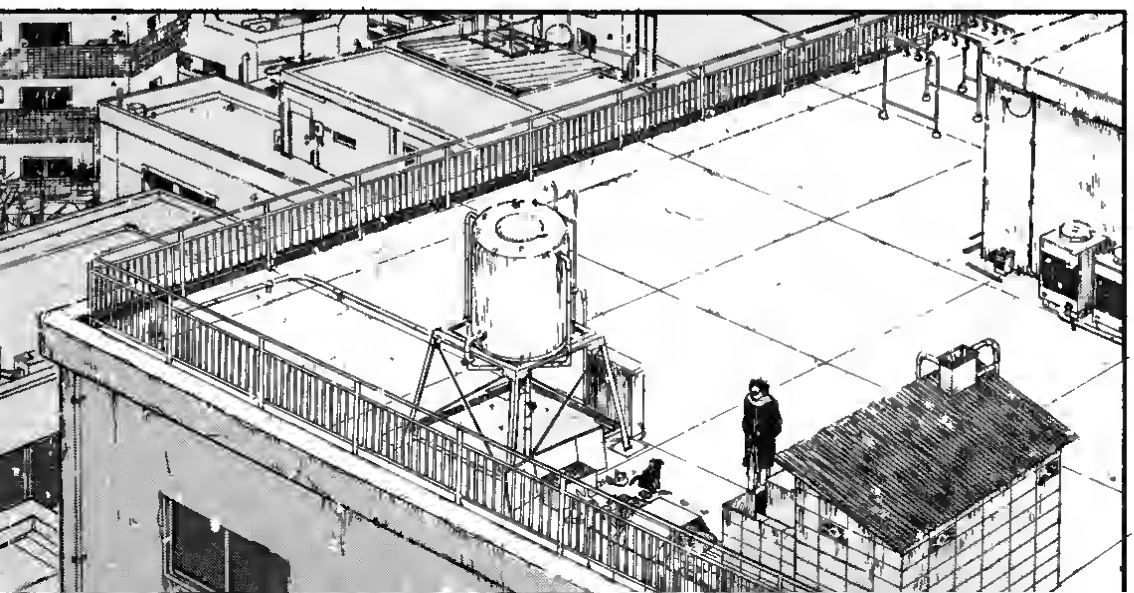


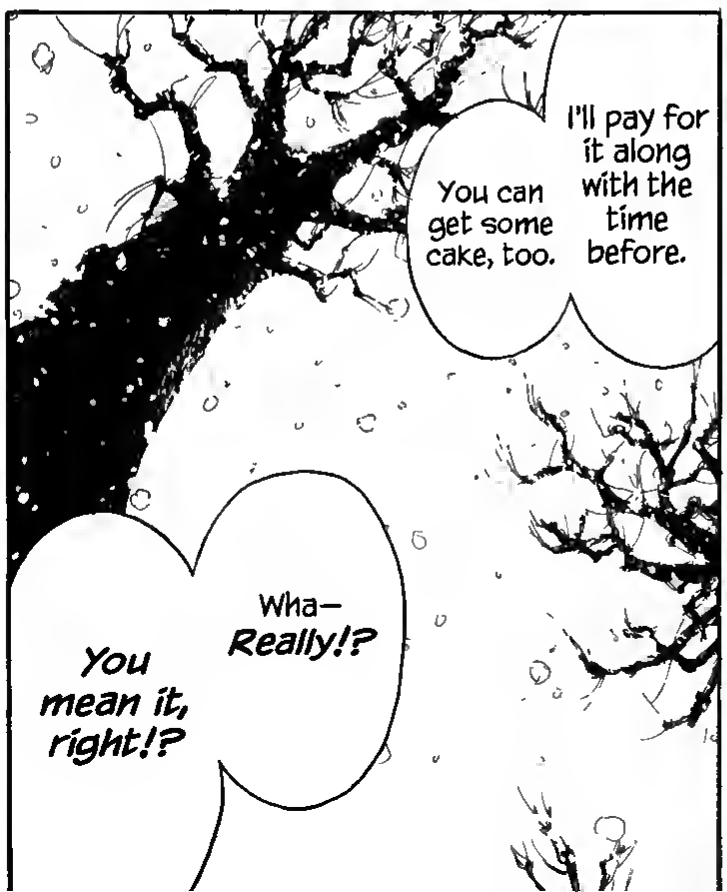
A homeless man...?





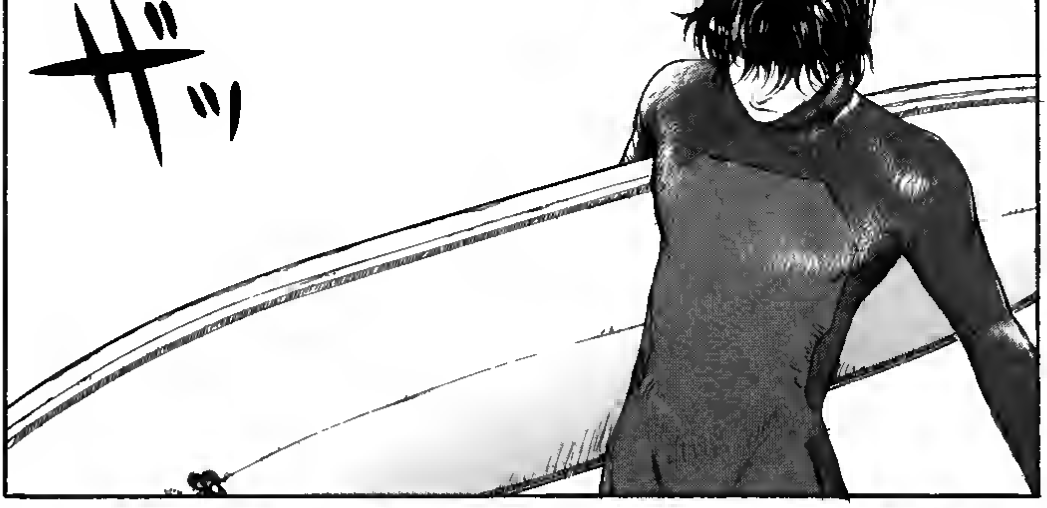


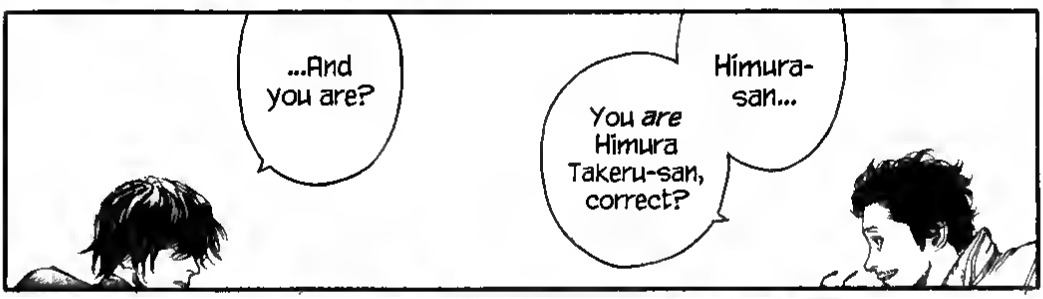




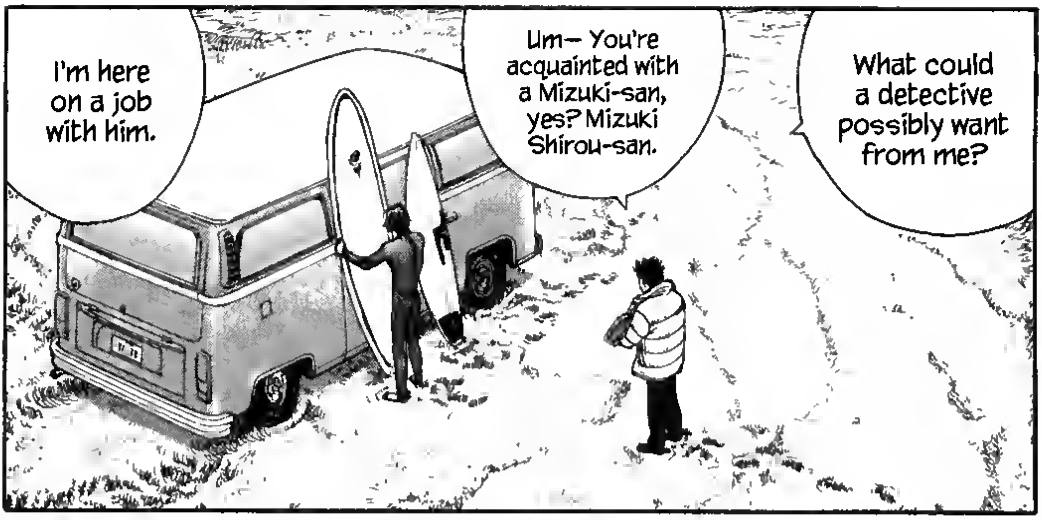
Chapter 09 END

Chapter 10 Riding On The Waves Of Winter

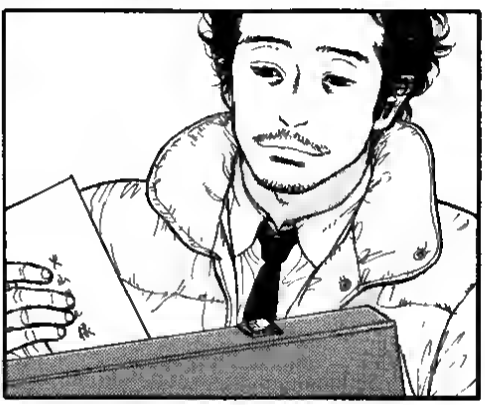


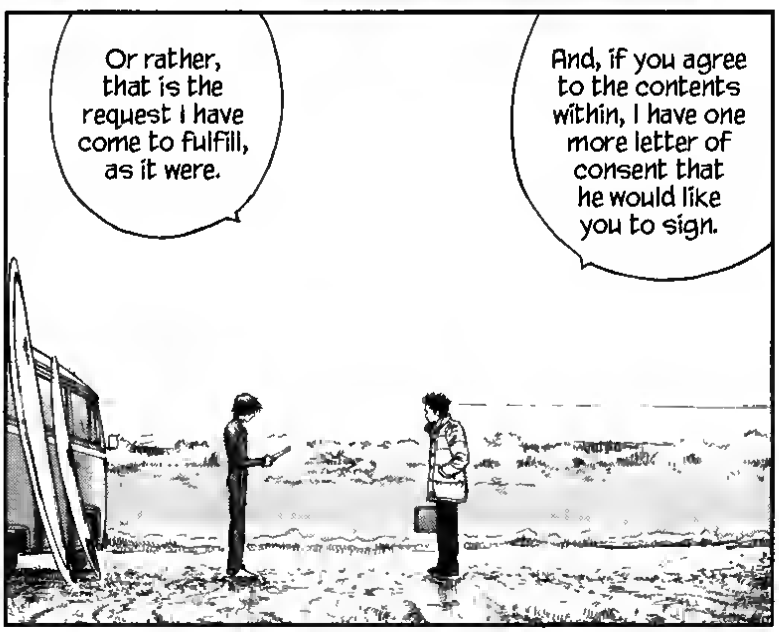

...And you are?
Himura-san...
You *are* Himura Takeru-san, correct?

A detective agency?
I'm sorry, I'm from a detective agency in Tokyo. My name's Yamazaki.


I'm here on a job with him.
Um— You're acquainted with a Mizuki-san, yes? Mizuki Shirou-san.
What could a detective possibly want from me?

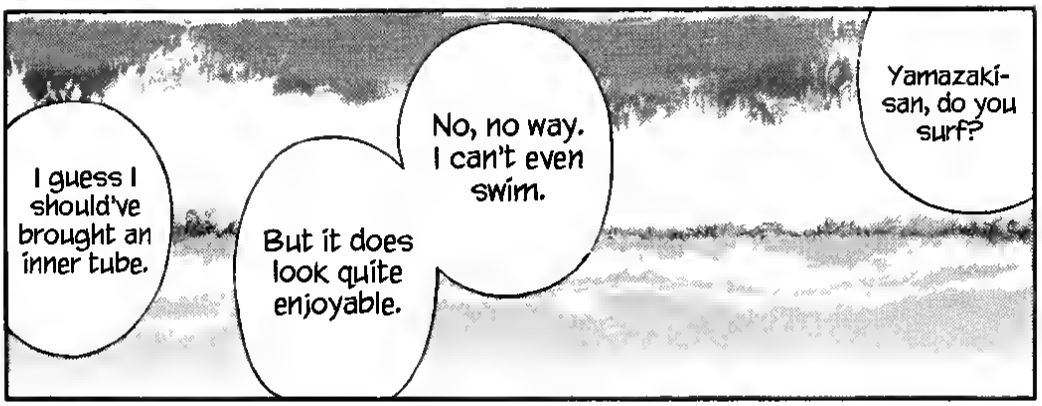
He would like you to read this.

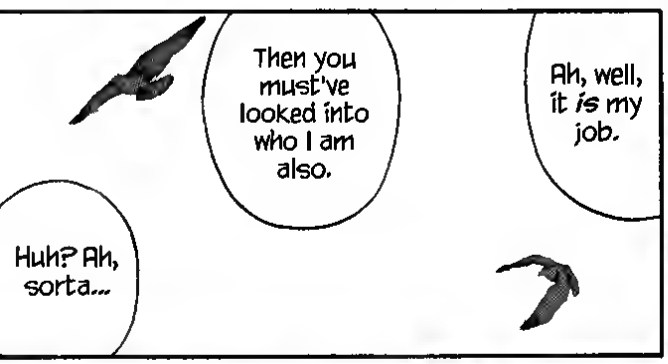



Or rather, that is the request I have come to fulfill, as it were.
And, if you agree to the contents within, I have one more letter of consent that he would like you to sign.

Though, this is my job after all. Can't go back empty handed, can I?
No! No! Don't be ridiculous, I can't do something like that.
And if I don't consent? Are you going to make me sign it by force?
No. Not at all.
Do you know the contents of what's written in here?
ビュウウウ

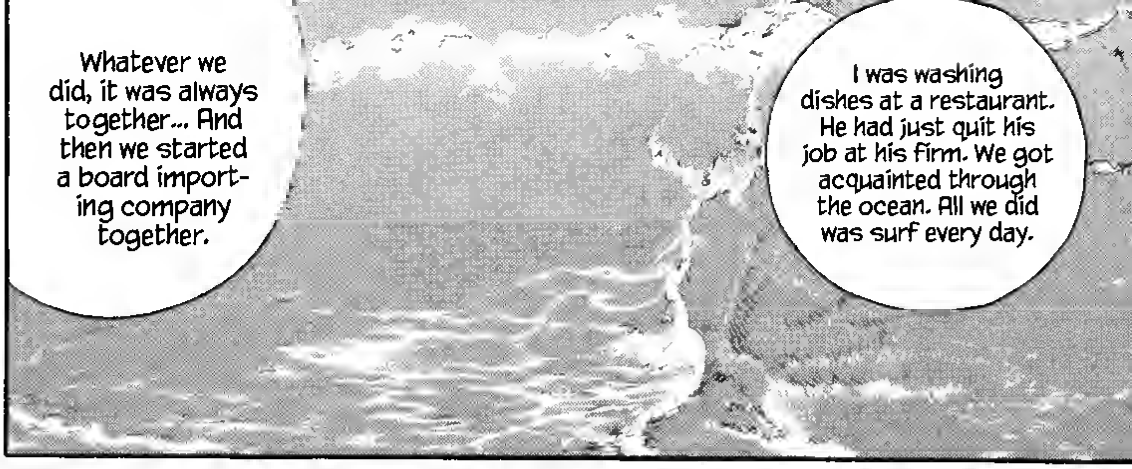
Would you like to have some coffee?
It is.
Isn't it cold?
When I come back to shore.
The coffee there is pretty good.
Ahhh...
I had the cafe by the station brew some for me.


Yamazaki-san, do you surf?
No, no way. I can't even swim.
But it does look quite enjoyable.
I guess I should've brought an inner tube.

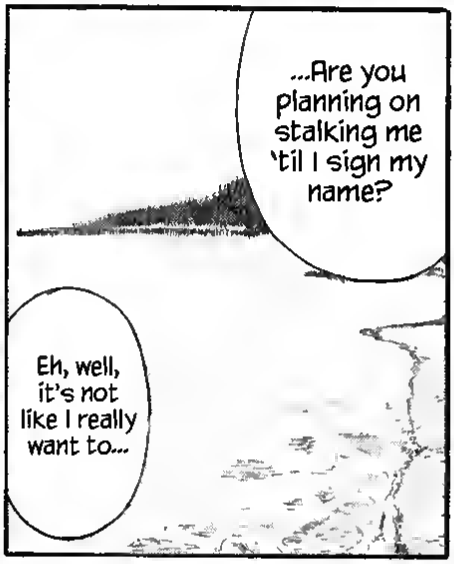

Then you must've looked into who I am also.
Ah, well, it *is* my job.
Huh? Ah, sorta...

You did a good job finding me way out here.

I met Mizuki twenty years ago in Los Angeles.

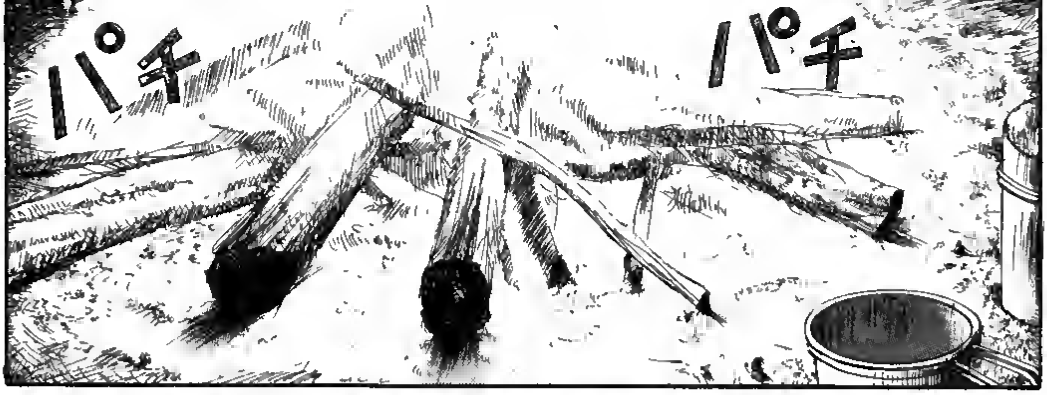

Whatever we did, it was always together... And then we started a board importing company together.
I was washing dishes at a restaurant. He had just quit his job at his firm. We got acquainted through the ocean. All we did was surf every day.

I came here planning to camp over night. The stars are beautiful.
Eh!?
I'm gonna be here all night, though.

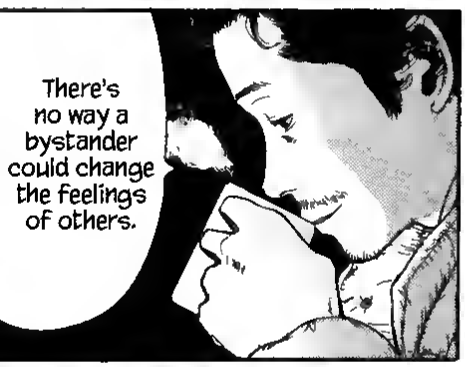

...Are you planning on stalking me 'til I sign my name?
Eh, well, it's not like I really want to...

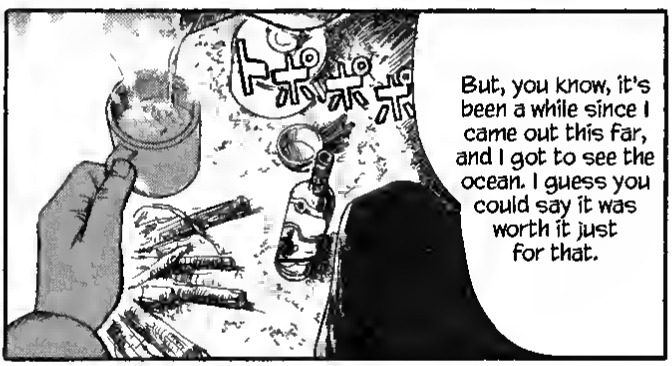
It looks like I can get one more ride in before it dies out...

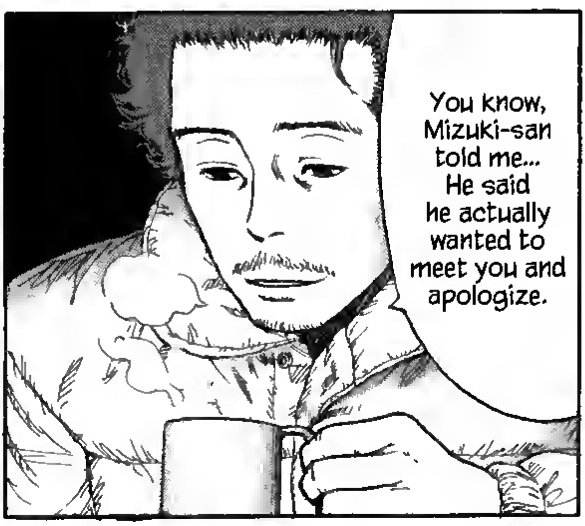
Well, I do have one extra sleeping bag with me.
Ah— That'd be appreciated.


パチ
パチ

Yeah... Just the investigation expenses, though.
トプ トプ
If I don't sign, then that means that you won't get paid, right?

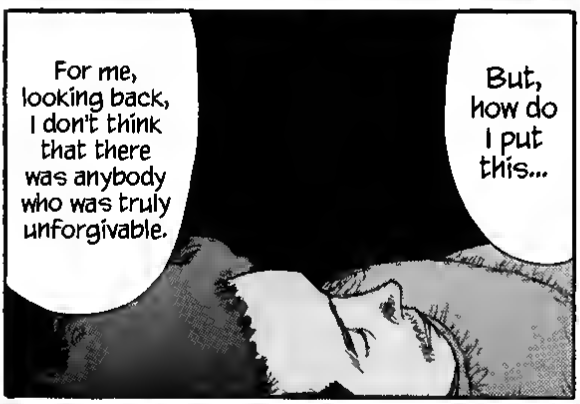

There's no way a bystander could change the feelings of others.


But, you know, it's been a while since I came out this far, and I got to see the ocean. I guess you could say it was worth it just for that.

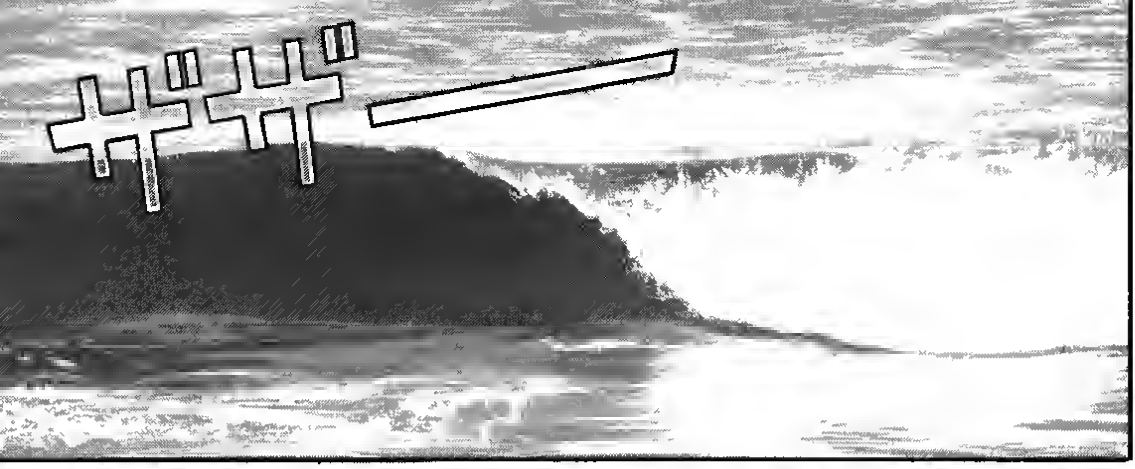

You know, Mizuki-san told me... He said he actually wanted to meet you and apologize.

Yeah?
Hey, Yamazaki-san...

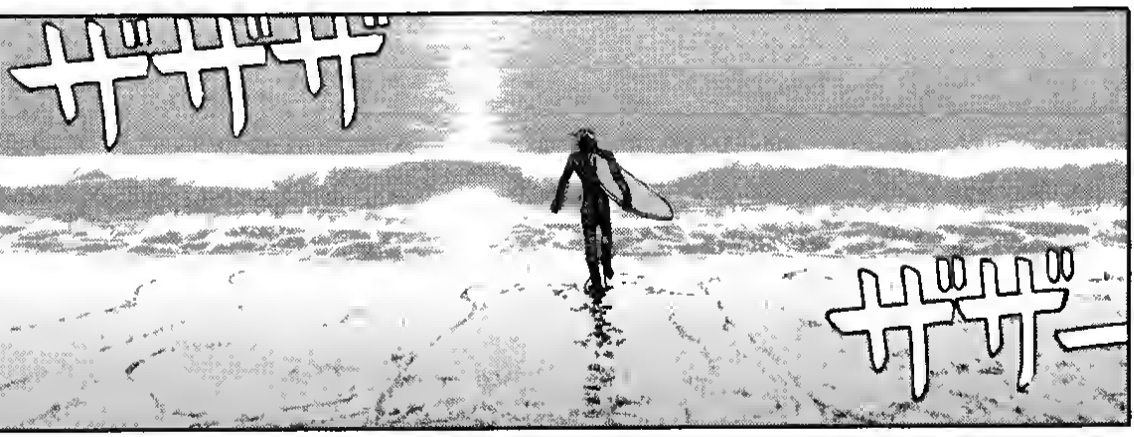
Ah... Well...
Do you think it's possible to forgive someone who you thought was unforgivable?


For me, looking back, I don't think that there was anybody who was truly unforgivable.
But, how do I put this...

When I was young, there were many jerks that I wanted to kill or people that I hated so much I couldn't stand it...


ザザザ

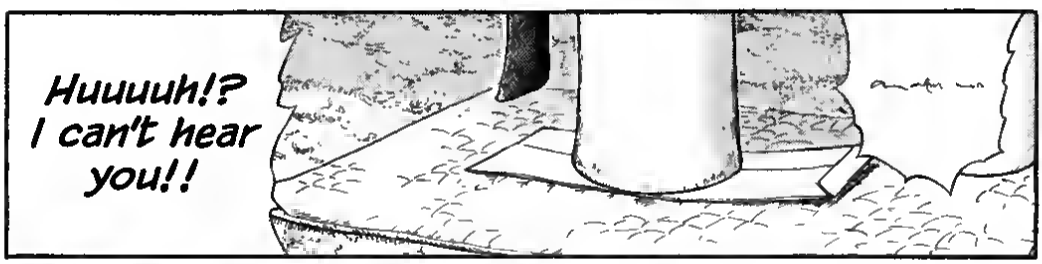
Huh!?
Yaaaawn
mumble mumble

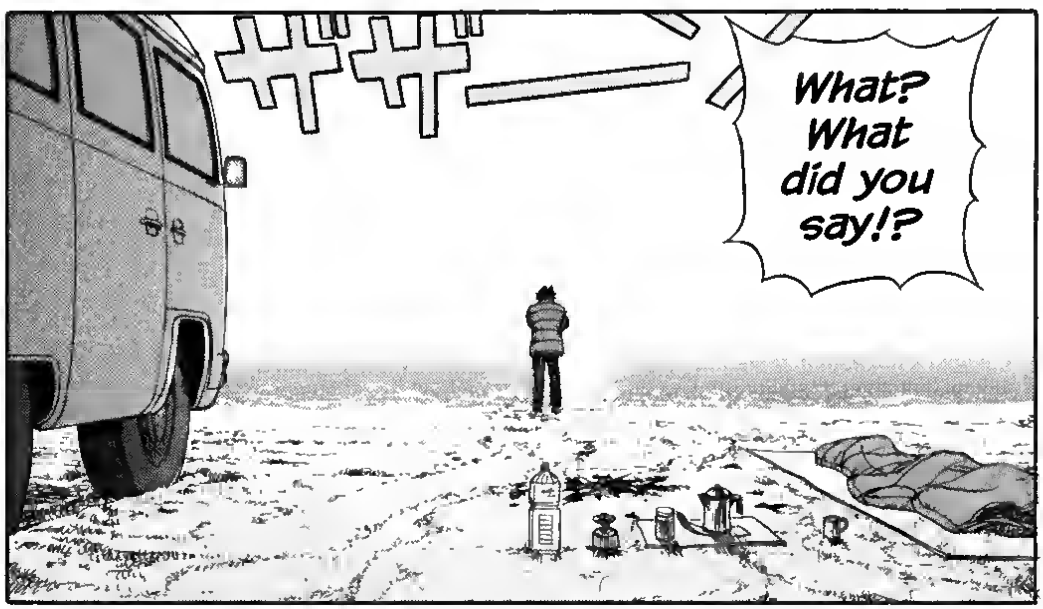

ザザザザ
ザザザ

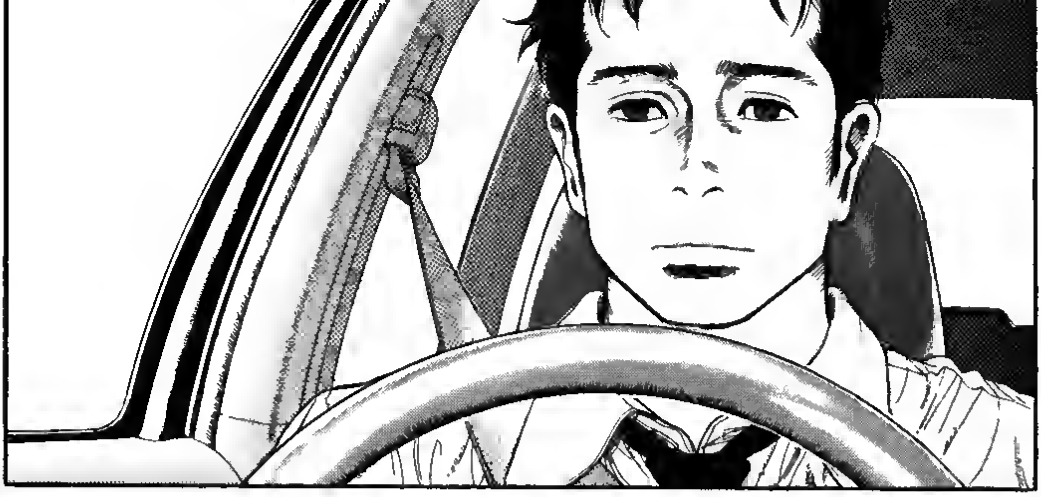
Yama-zaki-san!

Could you heat up the coffee for me so it's ready when I come back!?

Ehhh!? What's that you said!?

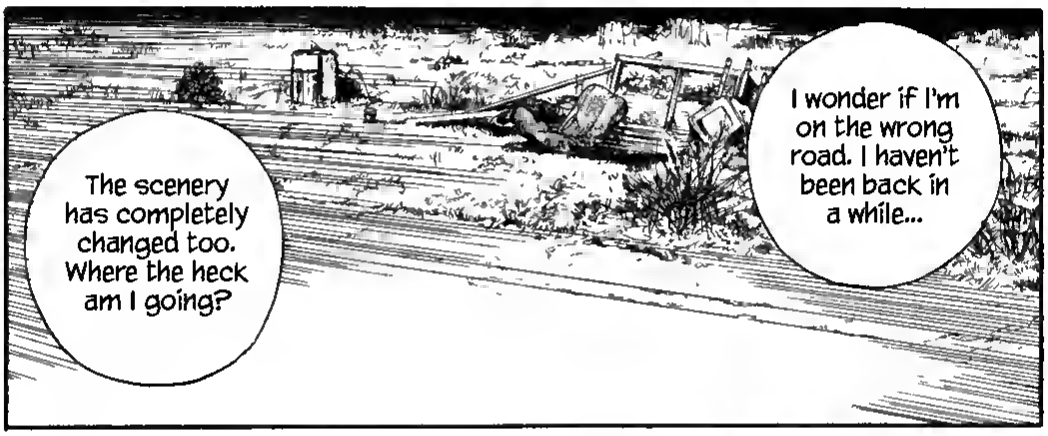

Huuuuh!? I can't hear you!!

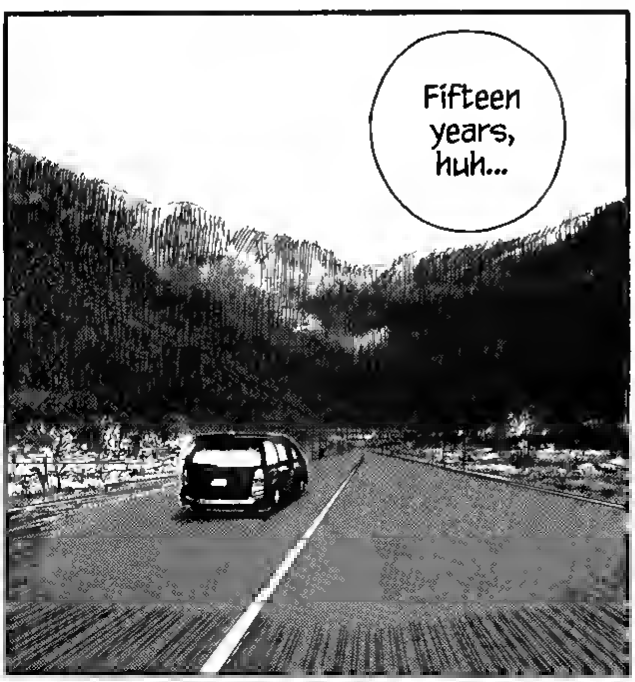

What? What did you say!?

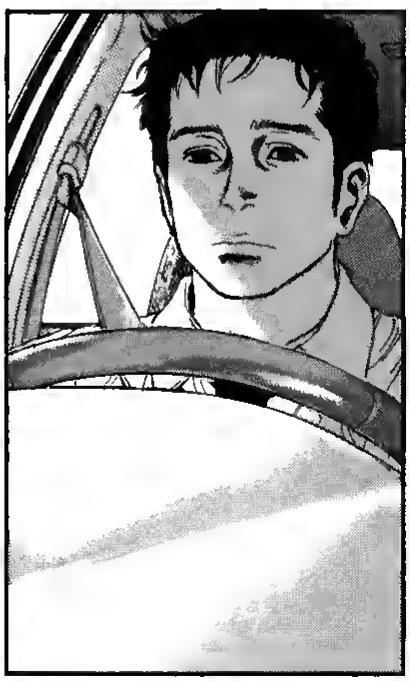


Chapter 11 Giraffes

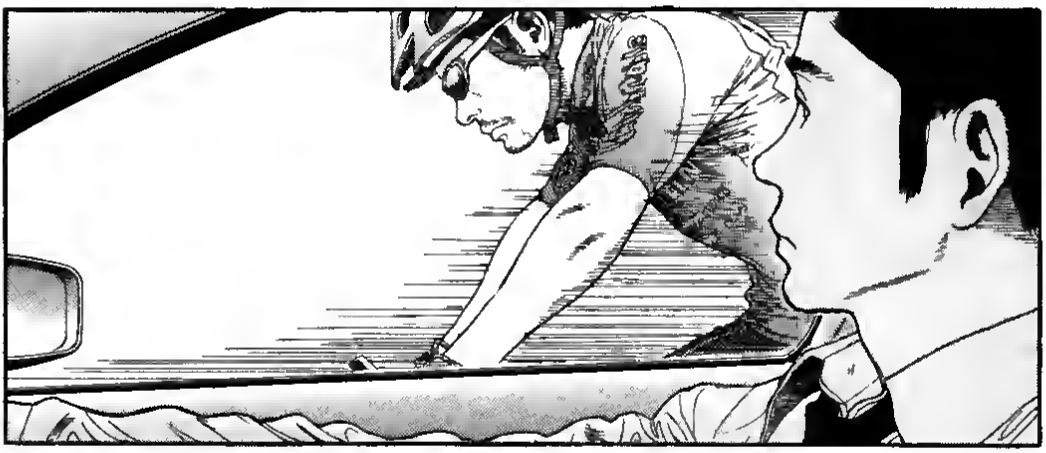
This is strange. I *still* haven't reached the next city yet...?

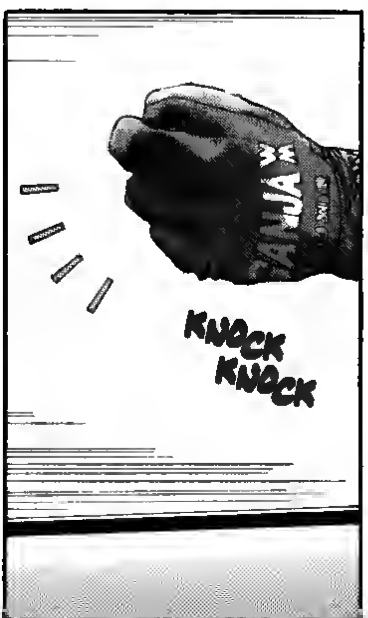

I wonder if I'm on the wrong road. I haven't been back in a while...
The scenery has completely changed too. Where the heck am I going?


Fifteen years, huh...

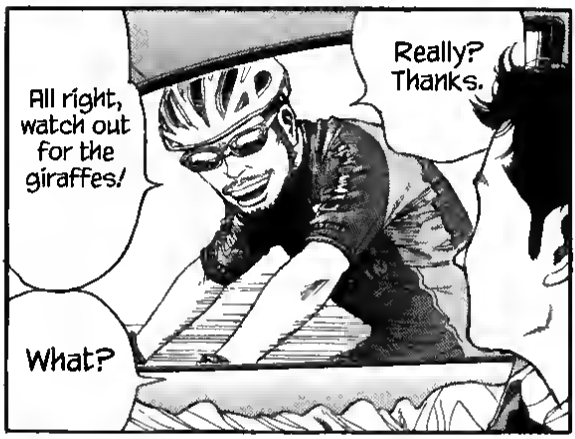


Traffic has been delayed for six kilometers at XXXX Tunnel because of an accident between a motorcycle and passenger vehicle.

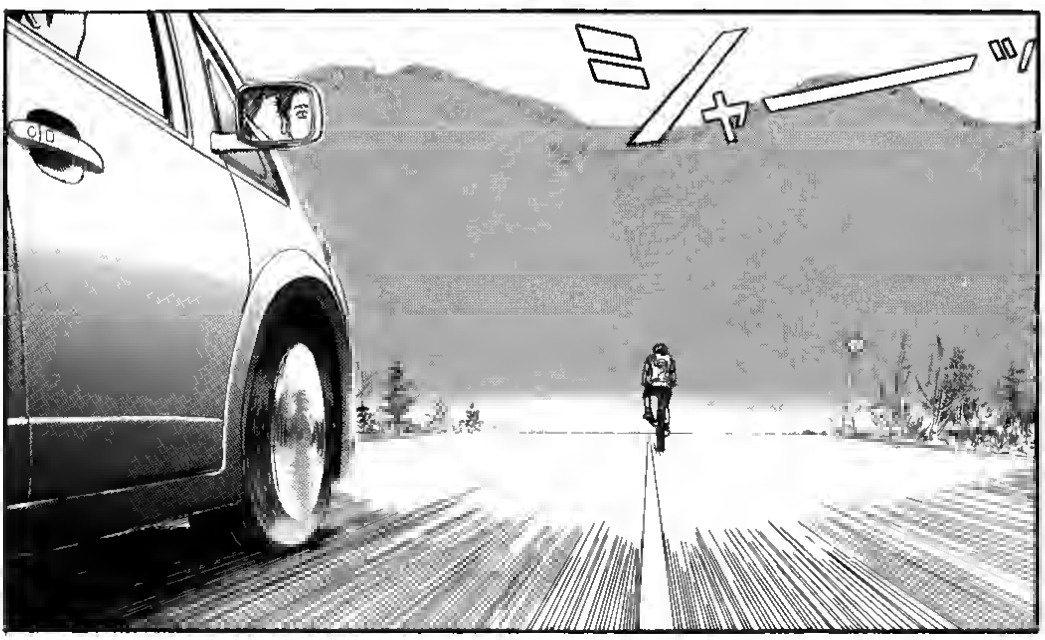




What!?
Is the Panda Café ahead of here?
BABYLON PISTOLS
The Panda Café!!

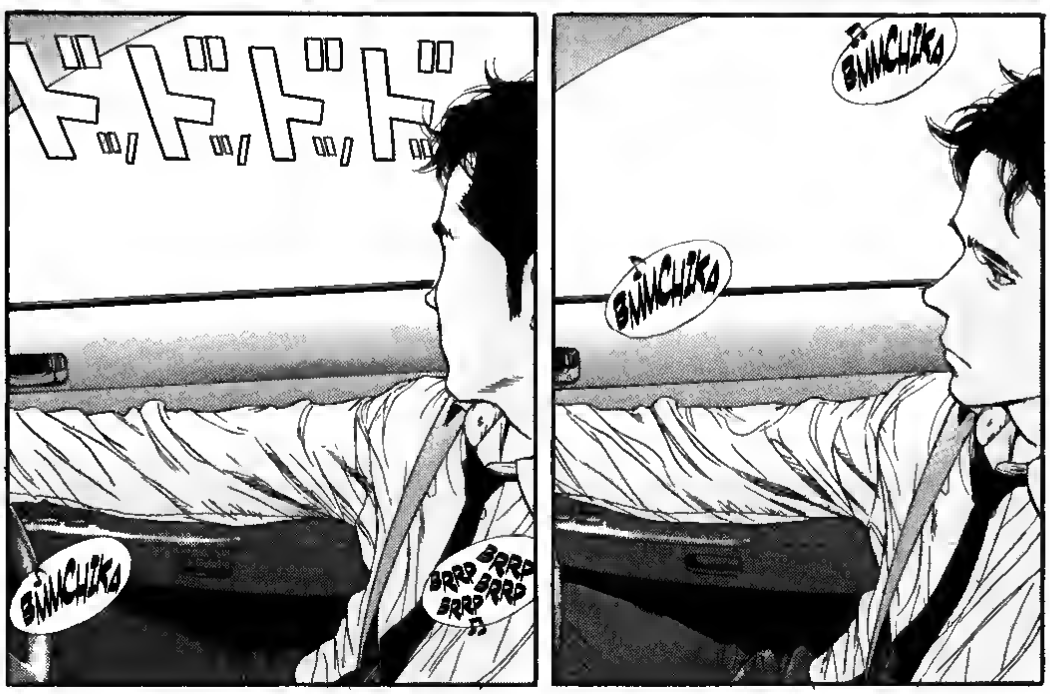

Really? Thanks.
All right, watch out for the giraffes!
What?

Uh... I don't really know. If you head to the next town, there's a family restaurant, but it's pretty far!



What did he mean by "giraffes"...?

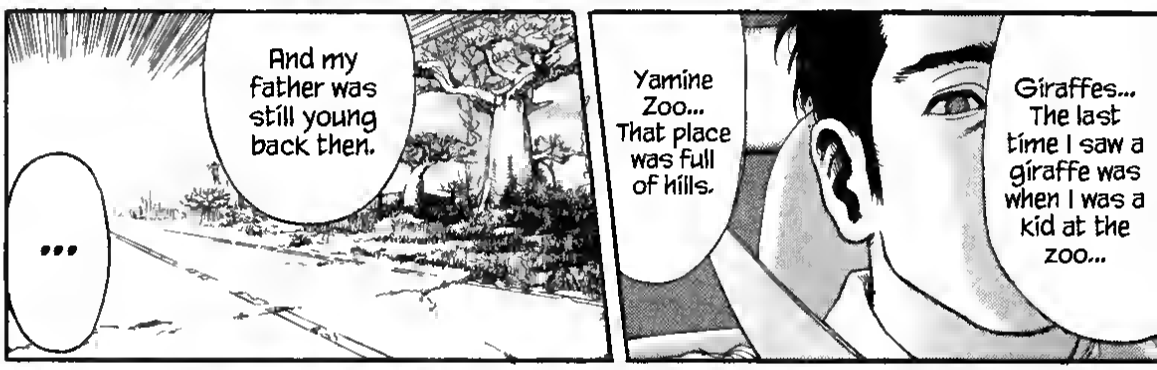
CHUFFING
KRRRSH
TUNE
PWR-VOL
896

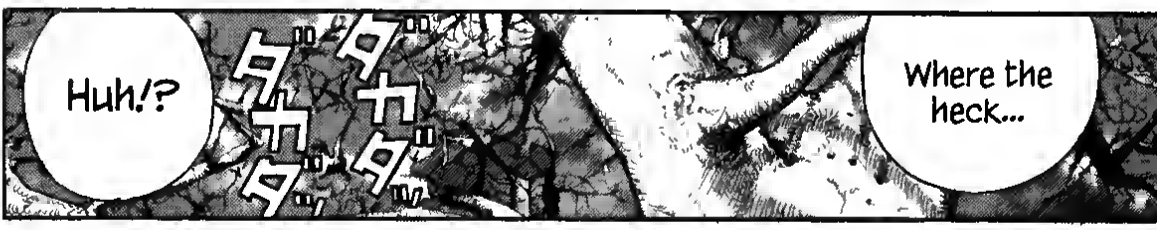

ド,ド,ド,ド
BWWCHIKA
BRRP BRRP BRRP BRRP
BWWCHIKA
BWWCHIKA

ドドドド
!?
ドドドド
スッ
What is it!?
...Ah, you want me to use this, huh?
EXCUSE ME!
THERE IS SOMETHING I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU!

How much further is it 'til we reach the Panda Café!?
...Sorry, I don't know anything about that place!
THE PANDA CAFÉ!!
What!?
Well then, please be careful of the giraffes. Have a pleasant trip!
It's fine!
Ah, I apologize for taking your time.
WHAT!?

And what do I need to be careful of giraffes for? They're docile herbivores.
ドドドドド
Why does everyone keep going on about the Panda Café? Is something going on over there...?


...
And my father was still young back then.
Yamine Zoo... That place was full of hills.
Giraffes... The last time I saw a giraffe was when I was a kid at the zoo...

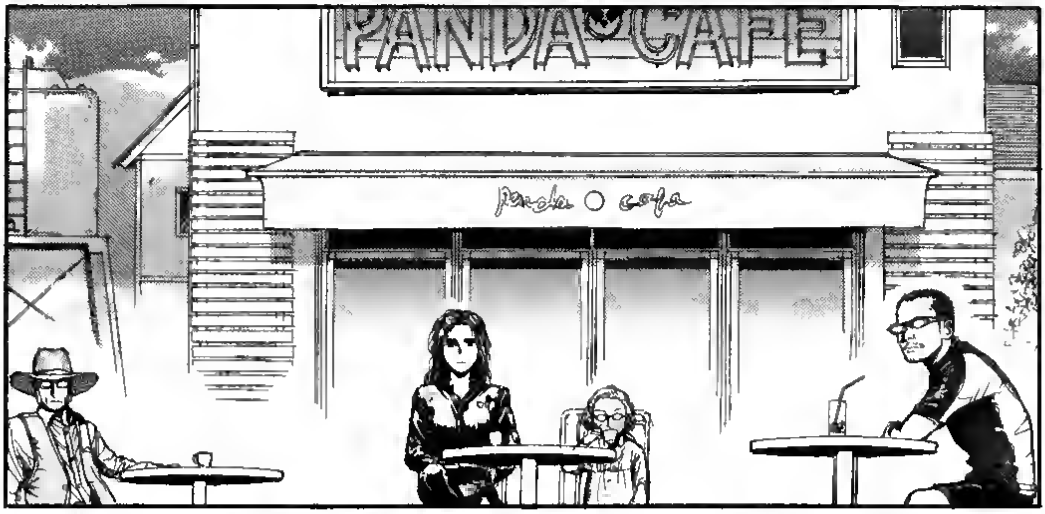

Huh!?
タカタ タカタ
Where the heck...

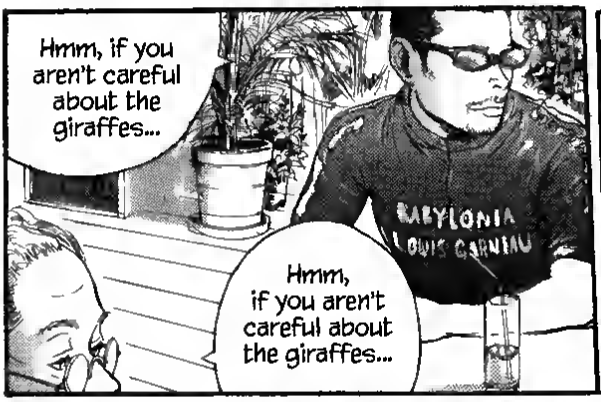
タカタ タカタ

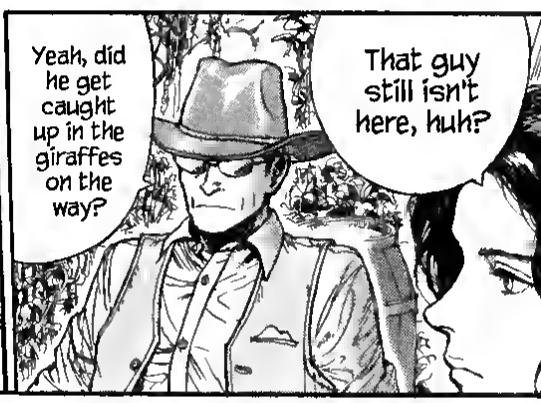
ダカラ ダカラ
Hey! You know—?
About the Panda Café? No, I don't!
パカラ パカラ
Thanks to all that, I don't even know where I'm going or if I'm ever going to get home! And why THE HELL are you riding a horse!?
Ah...
I mean, what the hell is it!? This place has completely changed since I've been gone. What's with Panda Cafés and giraffes!?
ダカダ ダカダ
Giraffes, right!? I know already!
I got it! Okay, from here on out...!
Jeez...
Umm, all right then.

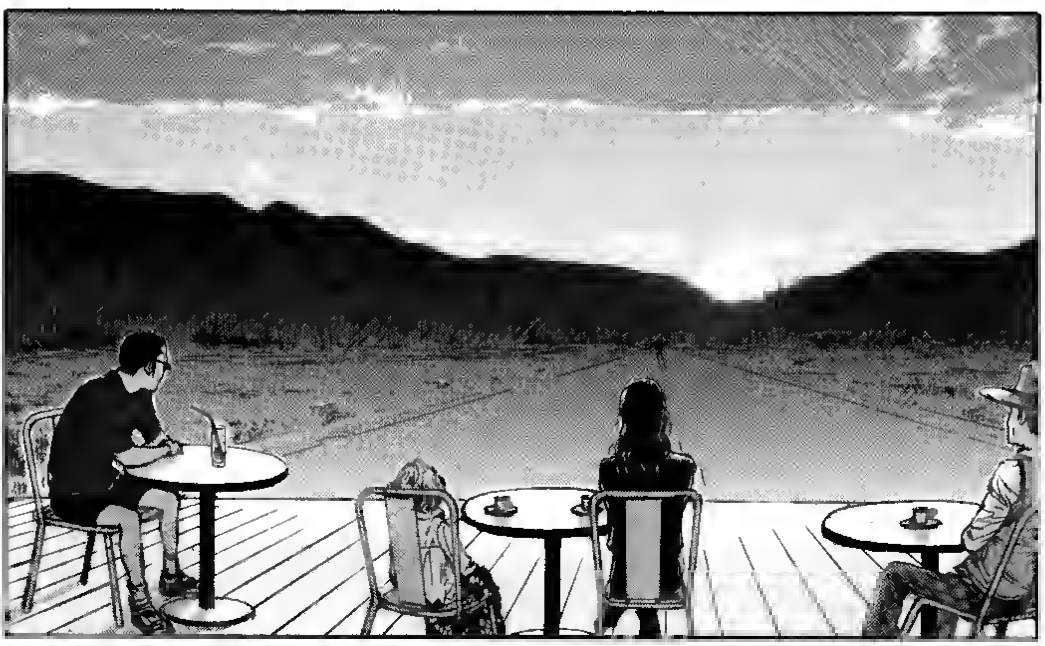
Huh?
I can't believe it...
How is it possible...

How is it possible that...!
Giraffes could be *this* ferocious...!


PANDA CAFE
panda ○ cafe

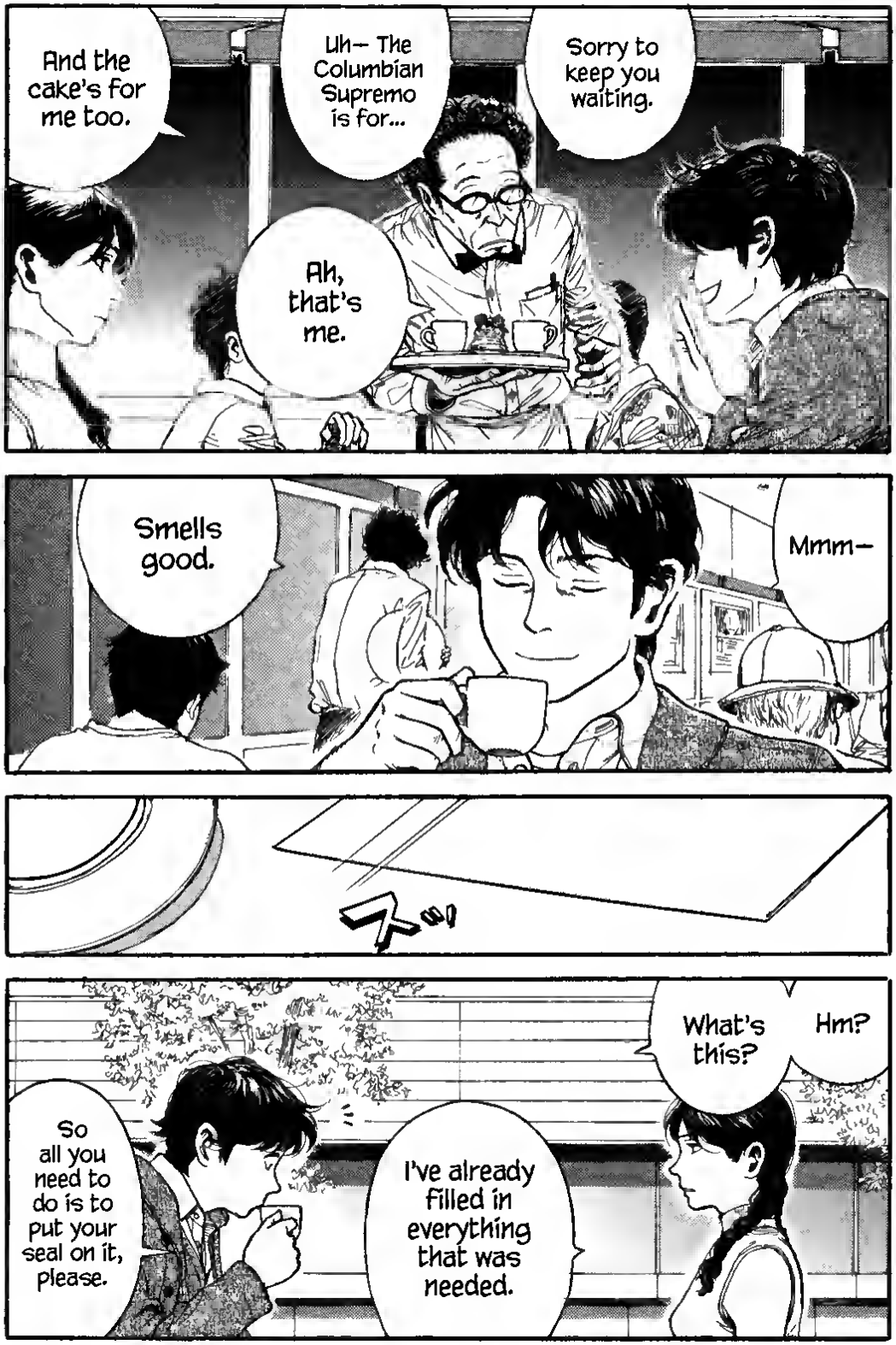

Hmm, if you aren't careful about the giraffes...
BABYLONIA
LOUIS GARNEAU
Hmm, if you aren't careful about the giraffes...


Yeah, did he get caught up in the giraffes on the way?
That guy still isn't here, huh?



Chapter 12 CHOPPED TOMATO PUREE

Let's break up already.
I don't want to.


And the cake's for me too.
Uh— The Columbian Supremo is for...
Sorry to keep you waiting.
Ah, that's me.
Smells good.
Mmm—
What's this?
Hm?
So all you need to do is to put your seal on it, please.
I've already filled in everything that was needed.

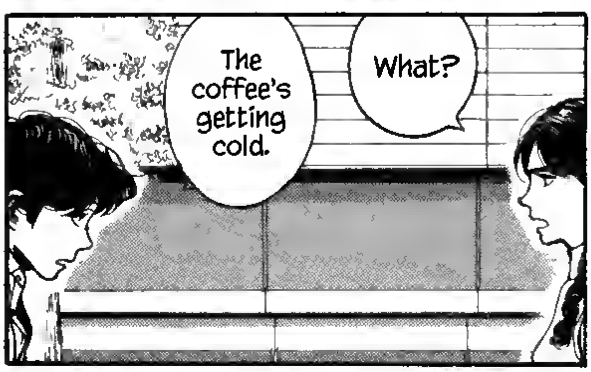
I want to leave you.
Eh? For what?
Fire insurance? Or is it for health insurance?
シュボッ
ボーボー
Hmmm...
No smoking!
Ah— Sorry.

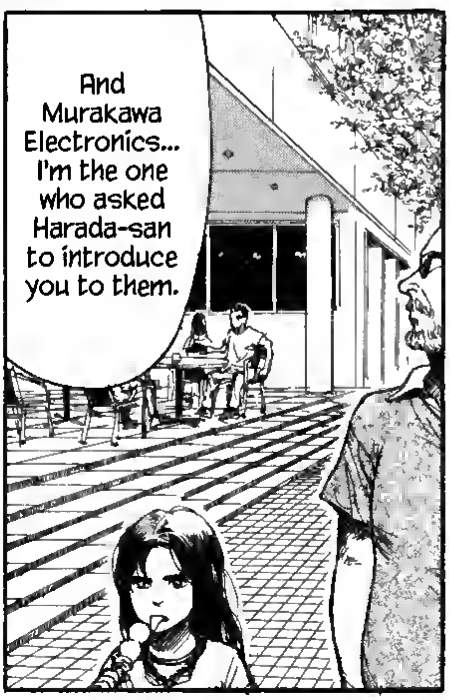
WHY!?
...Why?
Eh!?
I'm sorry.
The reasons!?
You don't know!?
Why not!?
Ah, uh...
ガバ
...

You didn't, did you?
Did you go to the Hello Work job agency?
Eh? Ah...

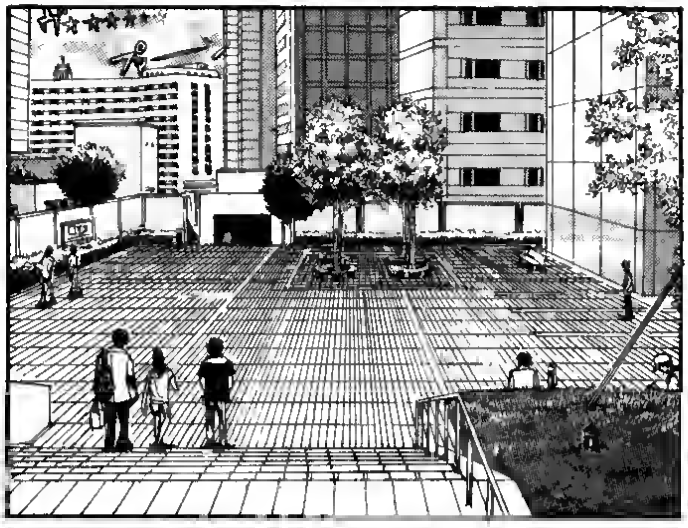
Why didn't you go?
What about the interview with Nomura Electronics?
...I didn't go.

Um...


The coffee's getting cold.
What?


And Murakawa Electronics... I'm the one who asked Harada-san to introduce you to them.

ゴクッ



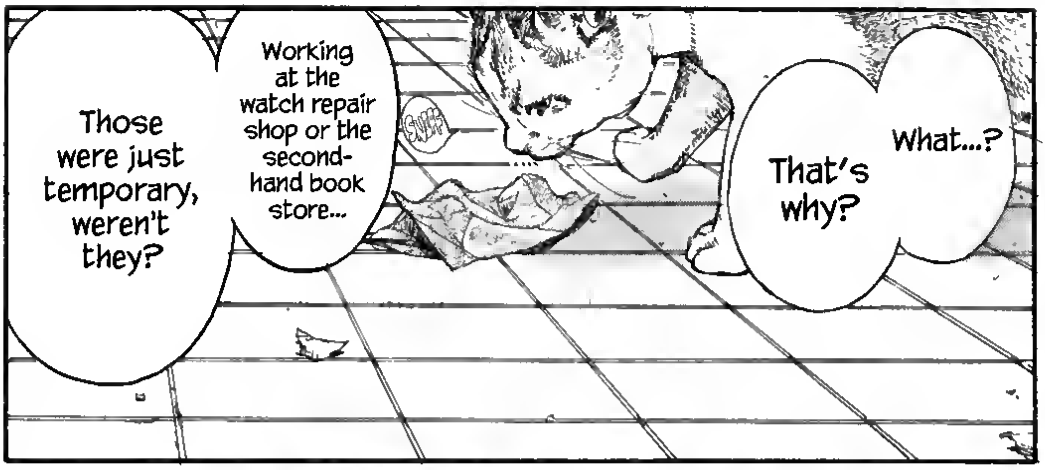
Sorry.

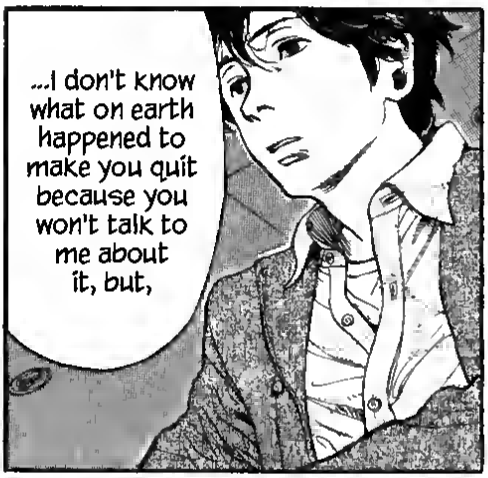
フー

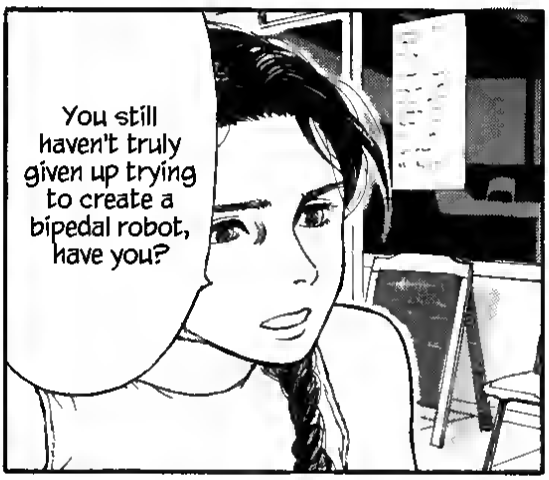
I'll pick up all the garbage and stop leaving it around the house.
And I'll quit playing the slots.

Hm?
I'll never fool around again.

I'll stop pissing in the shower, too.
And I'll really quit smoking.
I'll quit taking loans out on consumer credit, too.
Well, I didn't know you were peeing in the shower, but
aren't just those things.
...What I'm angry about...
Ever since you quit the research laboratory, you haven't been serious about any of your other jobs.


Those were just temporary, weren't they?
Working at the watch repair shop or the second-hand book store...
That's why?
What...?


...I don't know what on earth happened to make you quit because you won't talk to me about it, but,

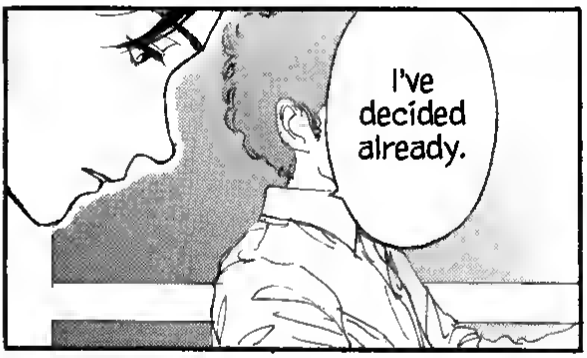

You still haven't truly given up trying to create a bipedal robot, have you?

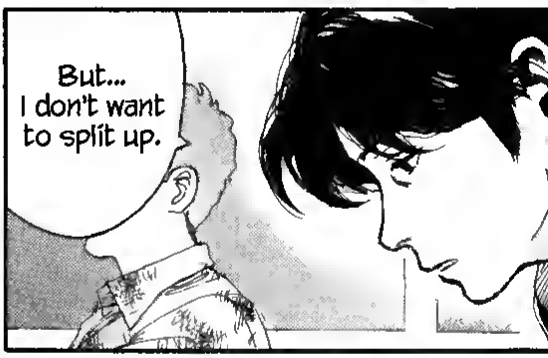
I'm sick of watching you get by so lackadaisically while hiding the things you really want to do.

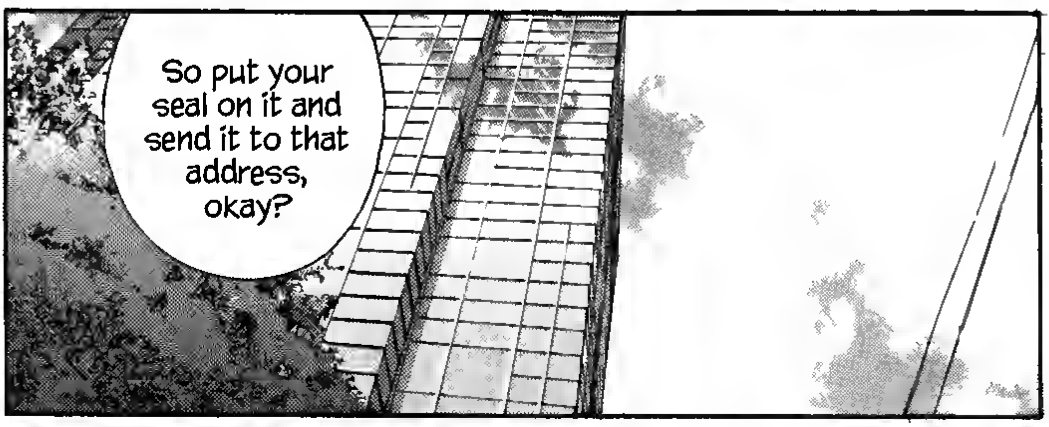
...Sorry.

...You say some pretty harsh things...
...

But I've decided already.


I've decided already.


But... I don't want to split up.


So put your seal on it and send it to that address, okay?

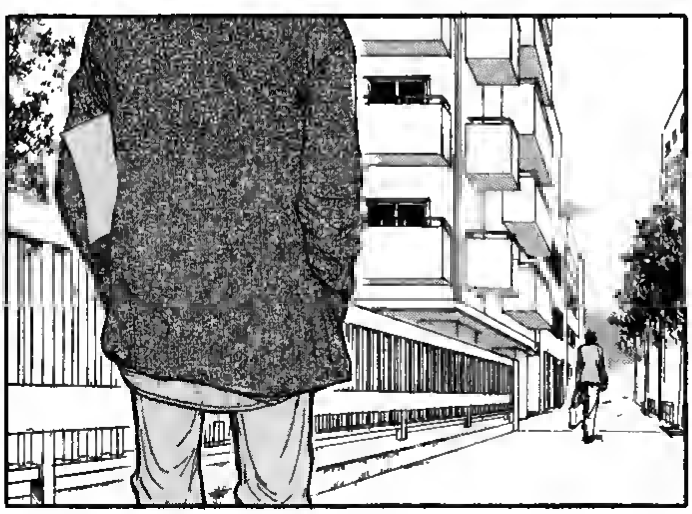
And the way the garbage gets separated is changing after April, so pay attention to it.
The renewal for the apartment is next month, so make sure you remember it.
Okay.
I'll come pick up the bigger packages later. And make sure you go to those interviews.
Okay.

No.
Never-mind.

And...
...

See you.

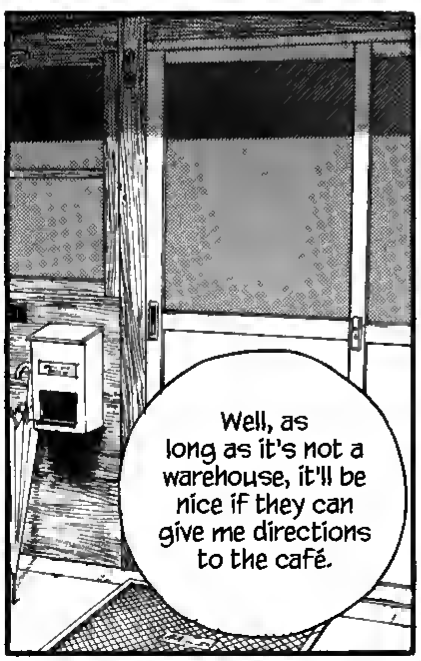
See you.



ボォオ
ゴォォォォ
Excuse me, sir. What do you think you're doing?
Eh?

Chapter 13 The Tanaka Book Cafe

...This is the place?


Well, as long as it's not a warehouse, it'll be nice if they can give me directions to the café.

...No matter how you cut it, it's got to be a warehouse or a work shop...

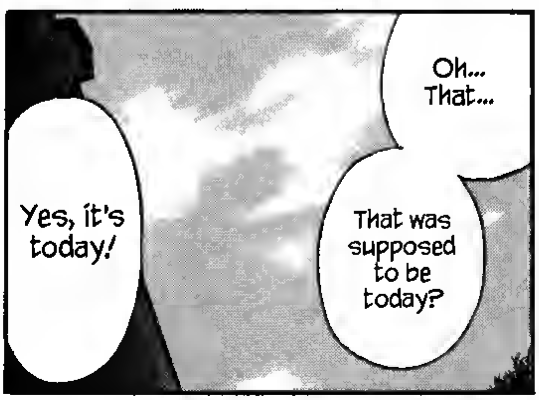
It can't be...
...But the address matches.

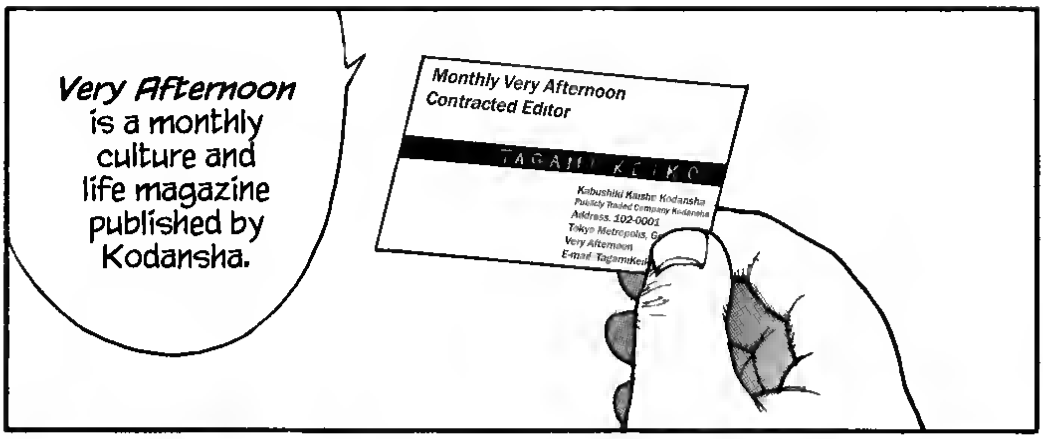
The schedule for this month is pretty tight; I've got to hurry up and collect the data and finish it up.
I'm really in a fix; I don't have time for this.

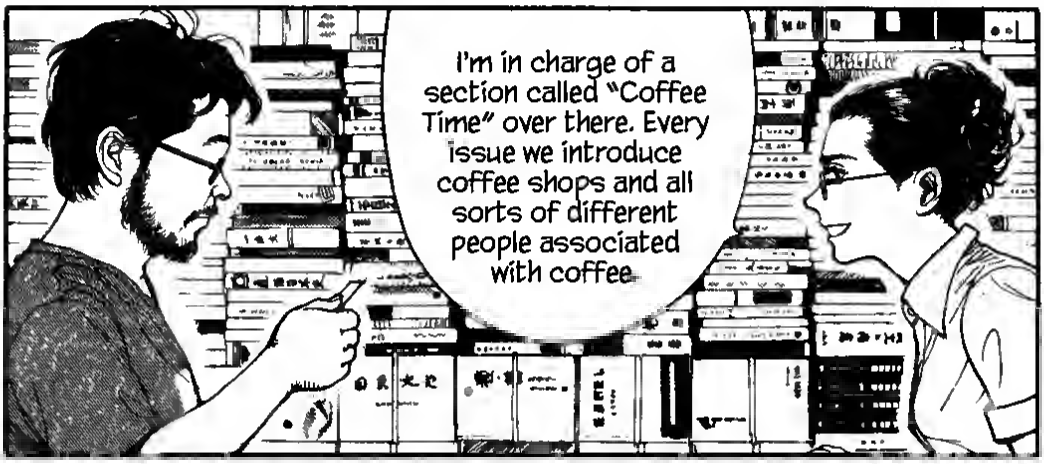
Jeez, you scared me!!
WAHH!!
Uh, excuse me, can I help you with something?

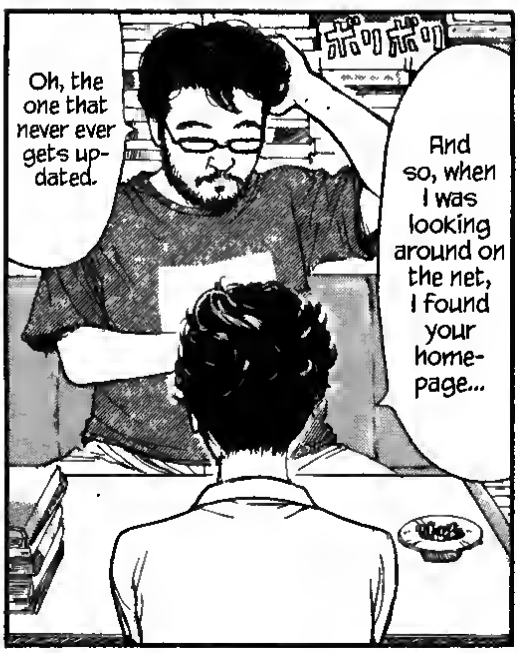
Um... I was scheduled to drop by here today to collect data...
Ah, I'm the one who called from "Very Afternoon." My name is Tagami.
Yes?
A-Are you the owner of the Tanaka book café?

Okay.
Ah, well then, please come in.


Yes, it's today!
Oh... That...
That was supposed to be today?


Very Afternoon is a monthly culture and life magazine published by Kodansha.
Monthly Very Afternoon
Contracted Editor
TAGAMI KEIKO
Kabushiki Kaisha Kodansha
Publicly Traded Company Kodansha
Address. 102-0001
Tokyo Metropolis, G
Very Afternoon
E-mail TagamiKei

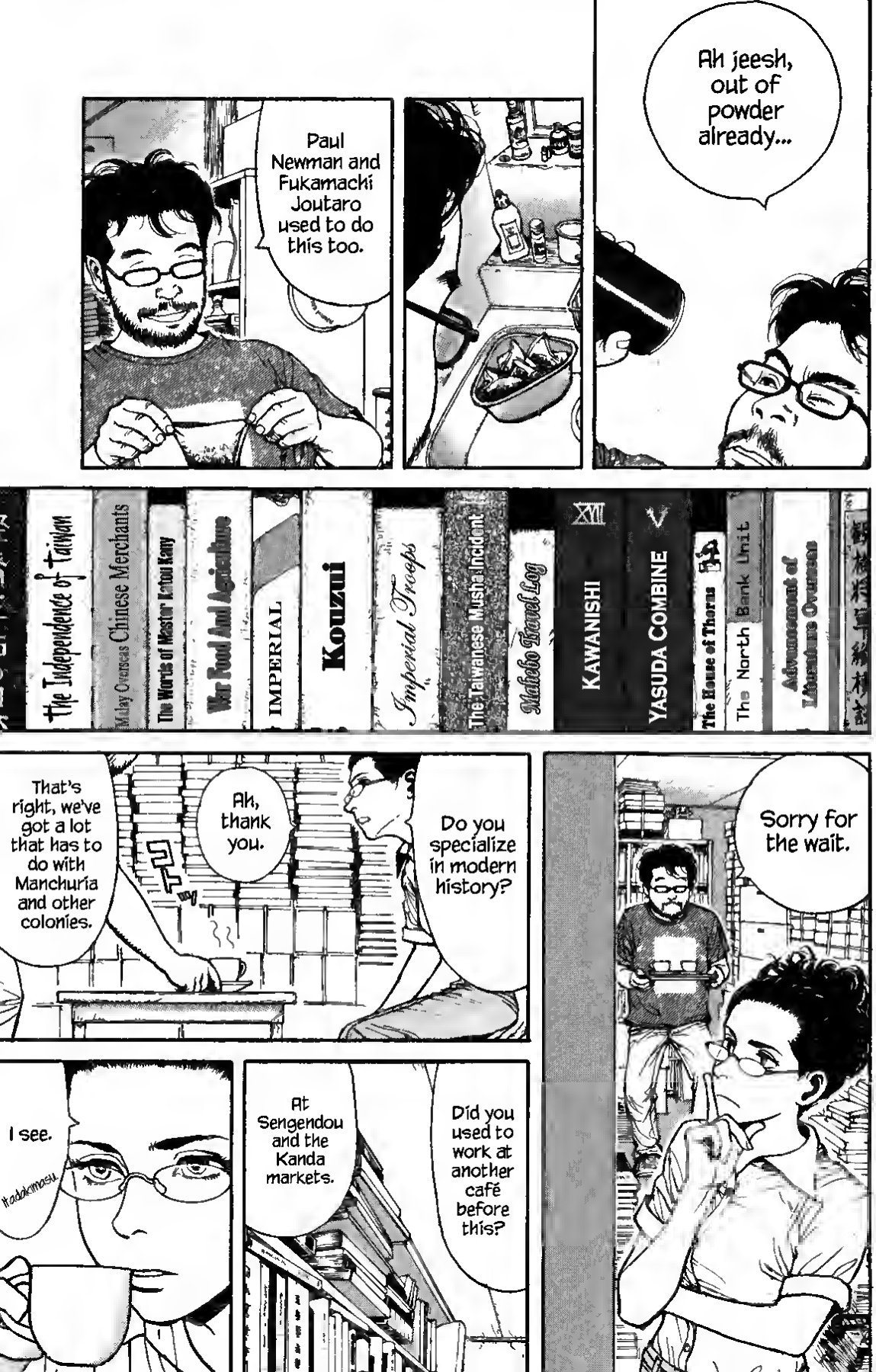

I'm in charge of a section called "Coffee Time" over there. Every issue we introduce coffee shops and all sorts of different people associated with coffee.


Oh, the one that never ever gets up-dated.
And so, when I was looking around on the net, I found your home-page...

Next issue will be our "Book Café Special Feature," so we would very much like to introduce shops that aren't well known yet.

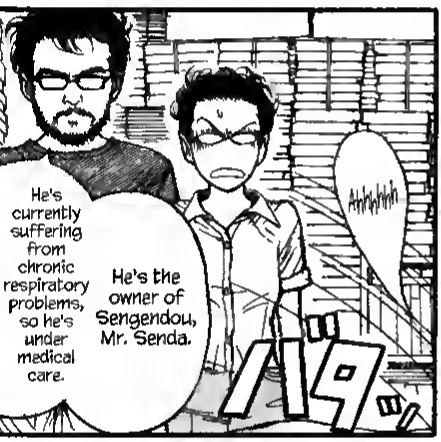
You're sitting in it.
Right, if you could show me the...
Ah, go ahead.
So, if you could let me take a look at the shop right away—
You just don't know where the lucky finds might be. The concept of this shop is a "Treasure Hunt," so to speak.
It's part-storage, part-office, and part-shop.
Wha—!? You mean this isn't... A storage room!?

I see...
Then, how about the menu...
I see... If you put it that way, it just might be something new...
You could say that it captures the fun and games of the small candy stores of yesteryear...
When you were a kid, you'd have a ramune in one hand and slam Menko, or you'd play marbles, right?
Huh?
Um... The menu for the café...
Ah! The menu. Right, right.
Uh— We're a bit short at the moment...
Me
nu
Brazil 450
Cafe Latte ...
Sssssss
...I guess I'll have a café latte...
Okay, one café latte.
ガタ


Ah jeesh, out of powder already...
Paul Newman and Fukamachi Joutaro used to do this too.
The Independence of Taiwan
Malay Overseas Chinese Merchants
The Words of Master Ishou Kaw
War Food And Agriculture
IMPERIAL
Kouzui
Imperial Troops
The Taiwanese Musha Incident
Makoto Travel Log
XII
KAWANISHI
V
YASUDA COMBINE
The House of Thorns
The North Bank Unit
Advancement of Mountains Overseas
That's right, we've got a lot that has to do with Manchuria and other colonies.
Ah, thank you.
Do you specialize in modern history?
Sorry for the wait.
I see.
Itadakimasu.
At Sengendou and the Kanda markets.
Did you used to work at another café before this?

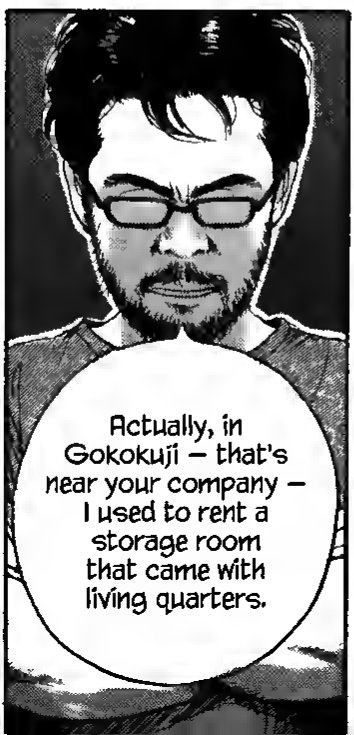
A-Are you all right!?
Ugh, I'm sorry...
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
SPLT
PBBT
Eh? Ah, no...
...Is there someone else here?
But when I looked around before, I didn't see anyone.
COUGH
Ah, it's what you call a "second drip."
...It's got a strange flavor...
Was the milk bad too?
400
ズ
Excuse me.
Ah, not there!

COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
Ah... A customer?


He's currently suffering from chronic respiratory problems, so he's under medical care.
He's the owner of Sengendou, Mr. Senda.
Ahhhhhh

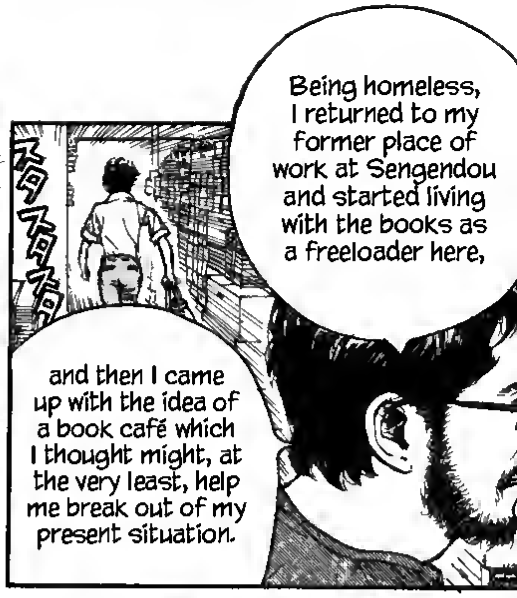
COUGH

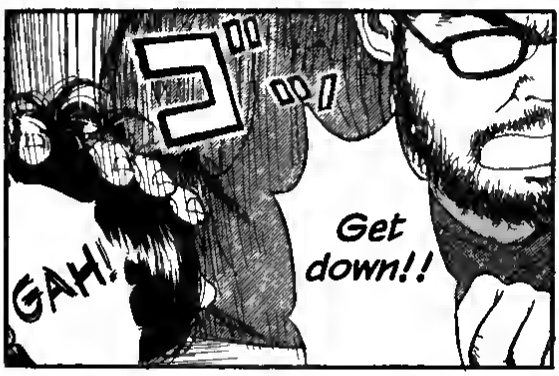
However, the monthly rent was a hundred and fifty thousand yen, and I wasn't able to pay. After about six months of defaulting on it, I was chased out.


Actually, in Gokokuji – that's near your company – I used to rent a storage room that came with living quarters.

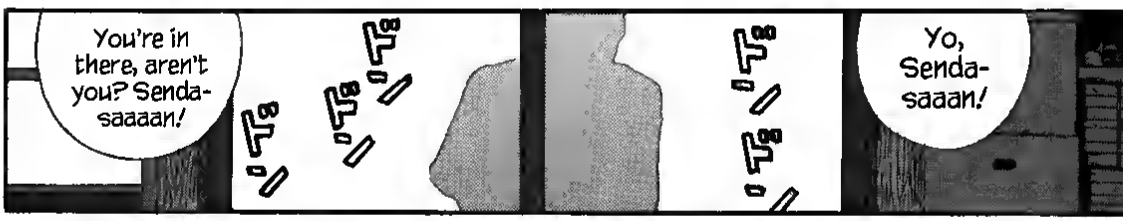
Why is he here...?
Tanaka-kun, I want a cigarette
Because this is Sengendou's part-storage room and part-office.

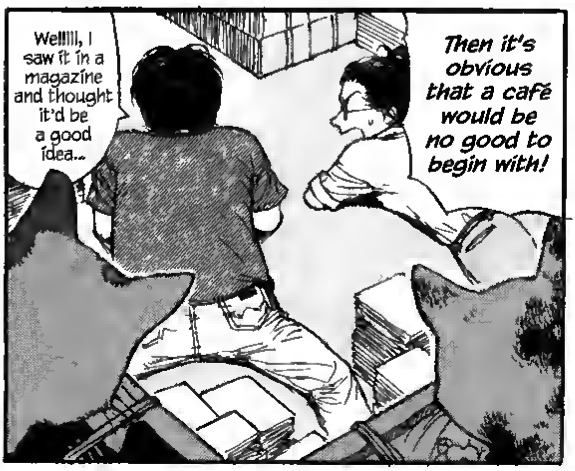
Didn't you come here to gather data!?
Hold on, where are you going!?
As if there's any data to even gather!!

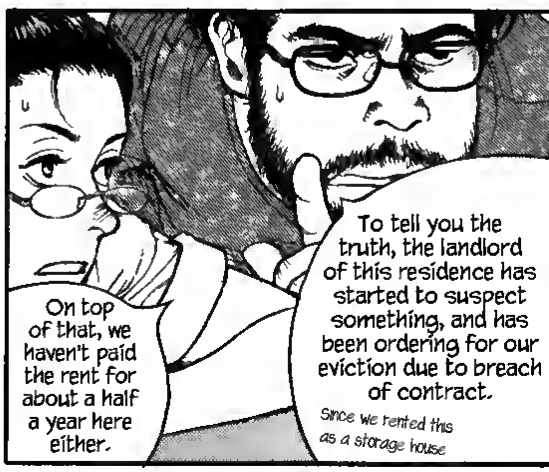

Being homeless, I returned to my former place of work at Sengendou and started living with the books as a freeloader here,
and then I came up with the idea of a book café which I thought might, at the very least, help me break out of my present situation.


GAH!
Get down!!

Eh, ah, could you— your voice— A little less loud...
Ah!
I mean, this isn't even a café or anything! Stop trying to fool people and get serious!!


You're in there, aren't you? Senda-saaaan!
Yo, Senda-saaan!

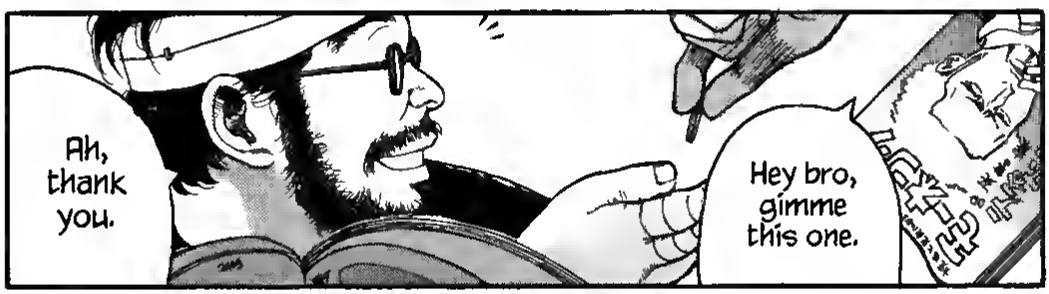

Wellll, I saw it in a magazine and thought it'd be a good idea...
Then it's obvious that a café would be no good to begin with!

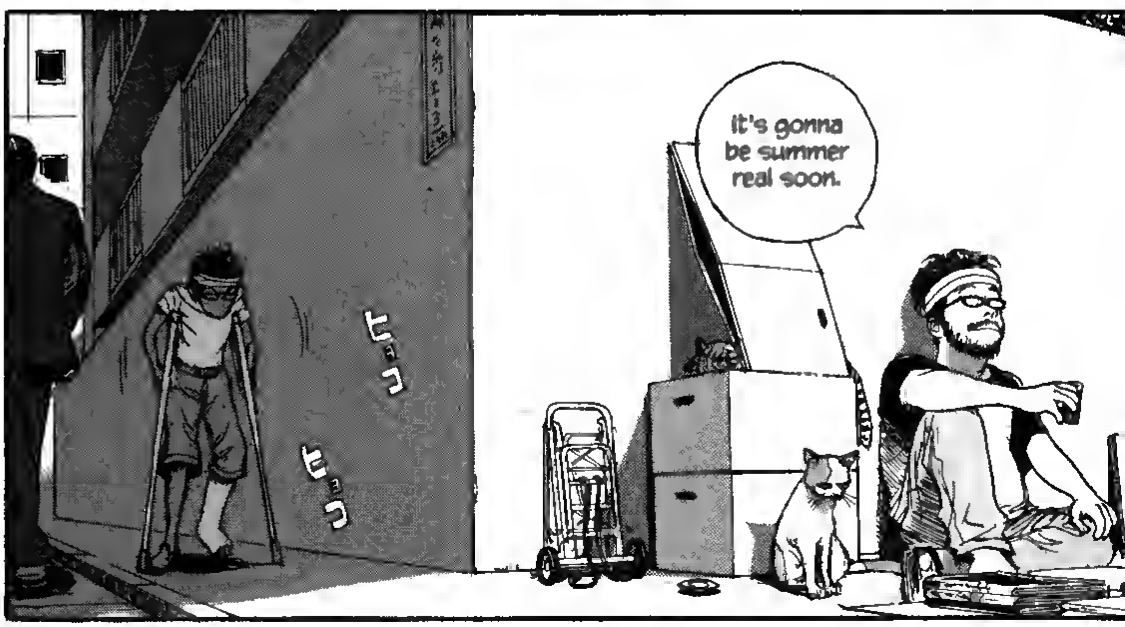

On top of that, we haven't paid the rent for about a half a year here either.
To tell you the truth, the landlord of this residence has started to suspect something, and has been ordering for our eviction due to breach of contract.
Since we rented this as a storage house

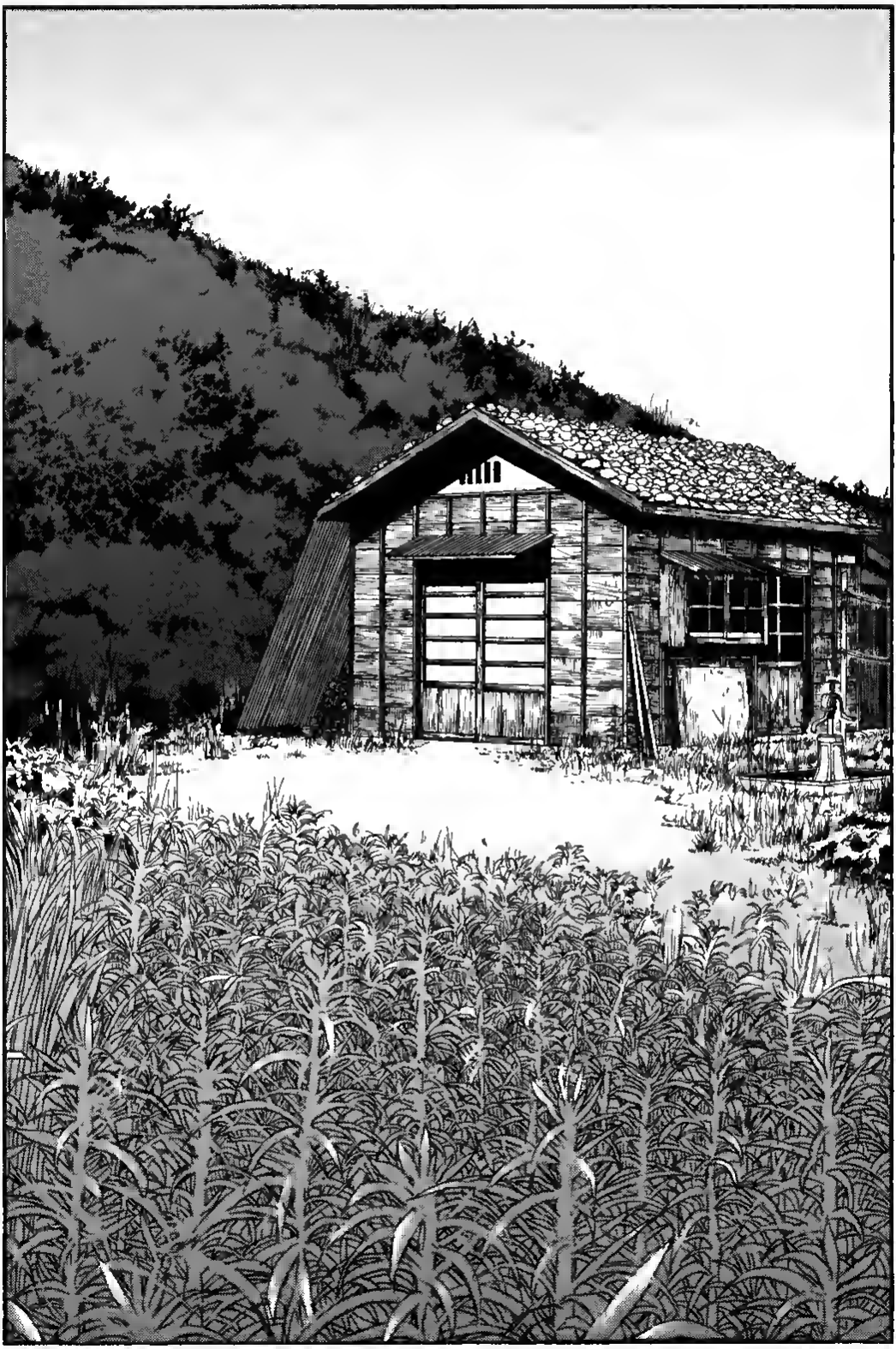
GYAAAAAAHHHHH!
Oh, Kemu,
and that's Gabby.
Grey, Tabby,
MEOWW
Really, all this is way too irresponsible...
Huh?
Nooooooooo!!!
No, not there! It's dangerous!!
ドシン
I'm allergic to cats!!
Not caaaa aats!
Books are dangerous.
DRRRRR
Ahhh hhh!!
Noo ooo!!
Ugya!!!

Hmmm, I guess they didn't put it in...
OUT THERE
cafe 異界

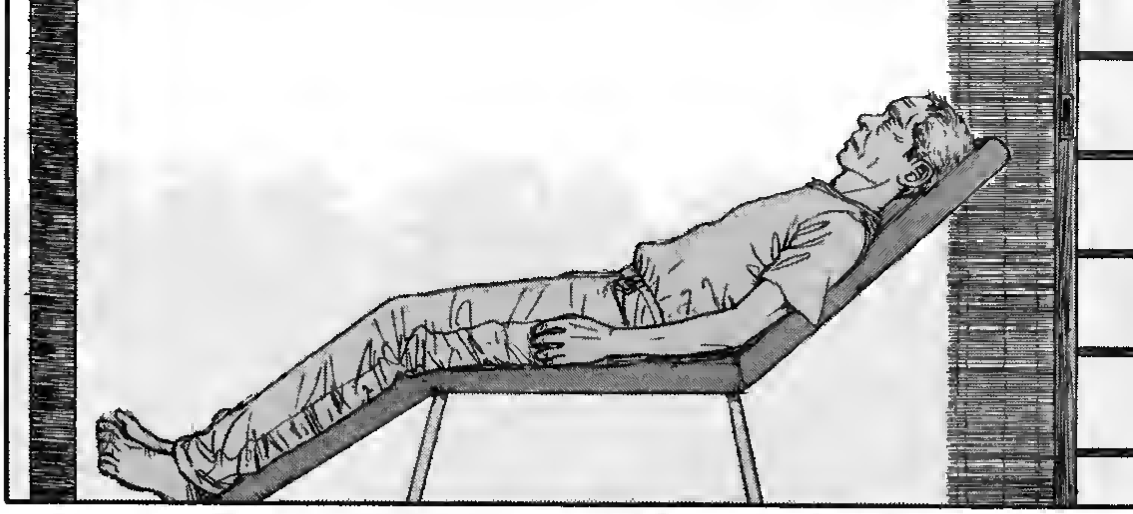
every afternoon
V·A
But, well, she was really angry about it, so it's no big surprise.


Ah, thank you.
Hey bro, gimme this one.


it's gonna be summer real soon.
ヒョコ
ヒョコ

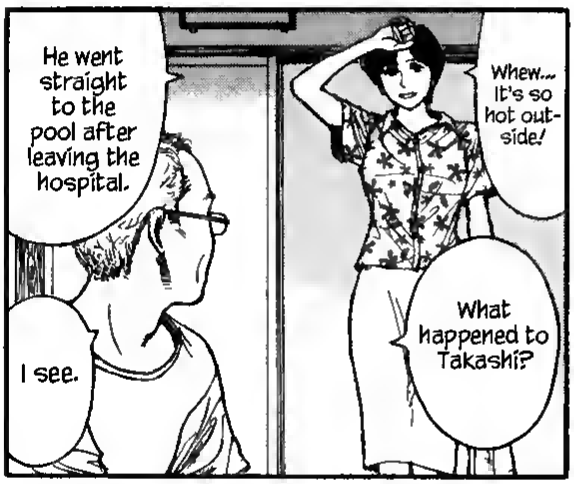


Chapter 14 Dreams



チリーン

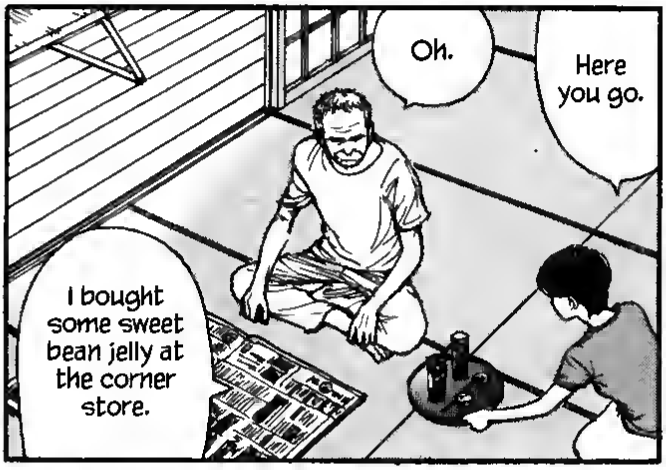
I'm back—
NIKKI WISKY


He went straight to the pool after leaving the hospital.
Whew... It's so hot outside!
What happened to Takashi?
I see.

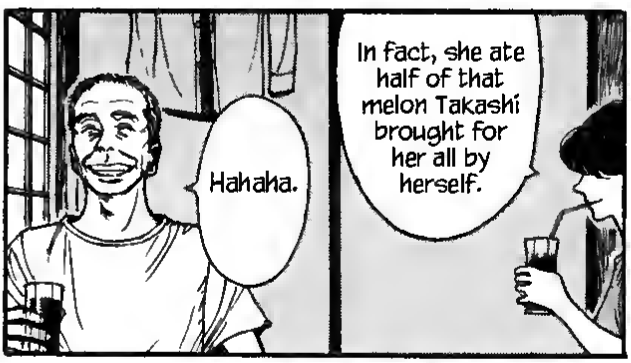
Hey there.

DING

Ahh, yeah.
I'm going to make some iced coffee. Would you like some too?
Okay, I'm going to get changed first, though.


Oh.
Here you go.
I bought some sweet bean jelly at the corner store.

カチャ
カチャ

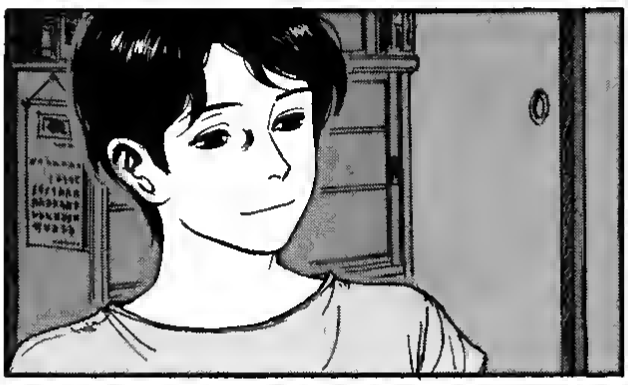

Hahaha.
In fact, she ate half of that melon Takashi brought for her all by herself.

Your wife seemed like she was in high spirits today. She even had an appetite.
That's good.

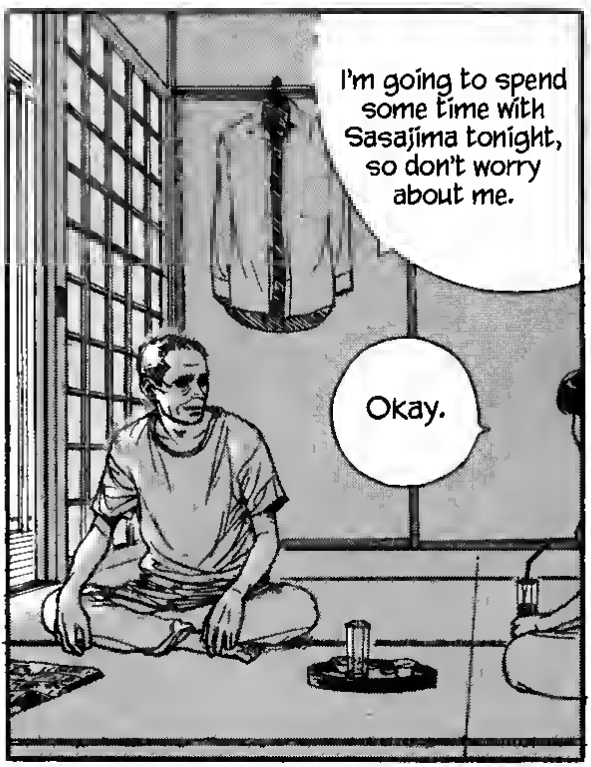
ゴクッ

*The week for memorial services

It sort of feels strange thinking about when your own parents were young.

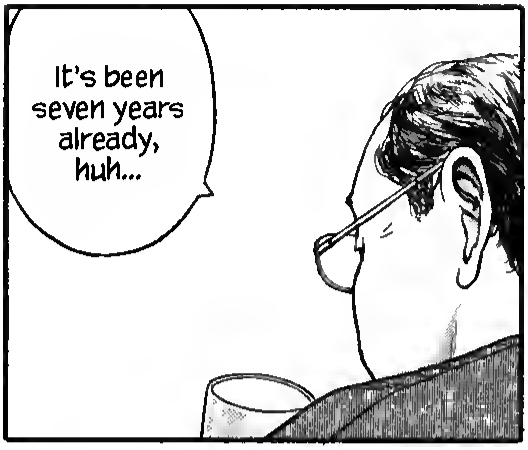


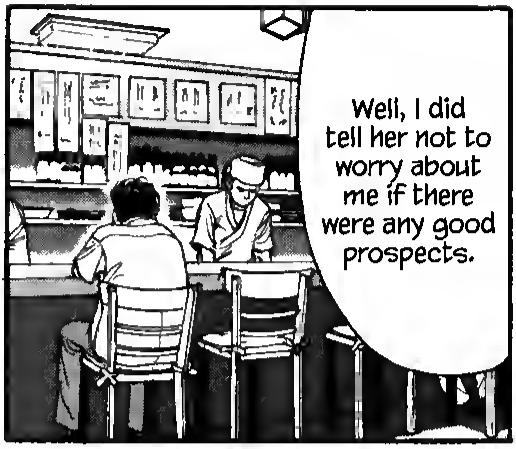
But what I've been remembering is how they appeared when they were much younger.
Must've been during the mid-'30s... And for some reason, it's how they looked from behind.

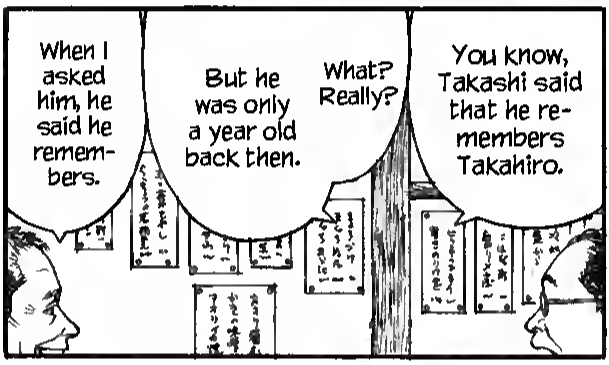

I'm going to spend some time with Sasajima tonight, so don't worry about me.
Okay.

ゴク ゴク

So, how is your old lady?
Nothing to worry about for now. She's been stable since the operation.
You been going to the hospital every day?
No, my daughter-in-law is around, so we've been taking turns.
Must be tough on Yomoko-san, being a single mother and all.
Must be.
Ah, Yomoko-san has come to visit.
Takashi's on his summer vacation, so they came to stay for a bit.
What about re-marriage? She must've gotten one or two offers. She's still pretty young.
Your guess is as good as mine...


It's been seven years already, huh...

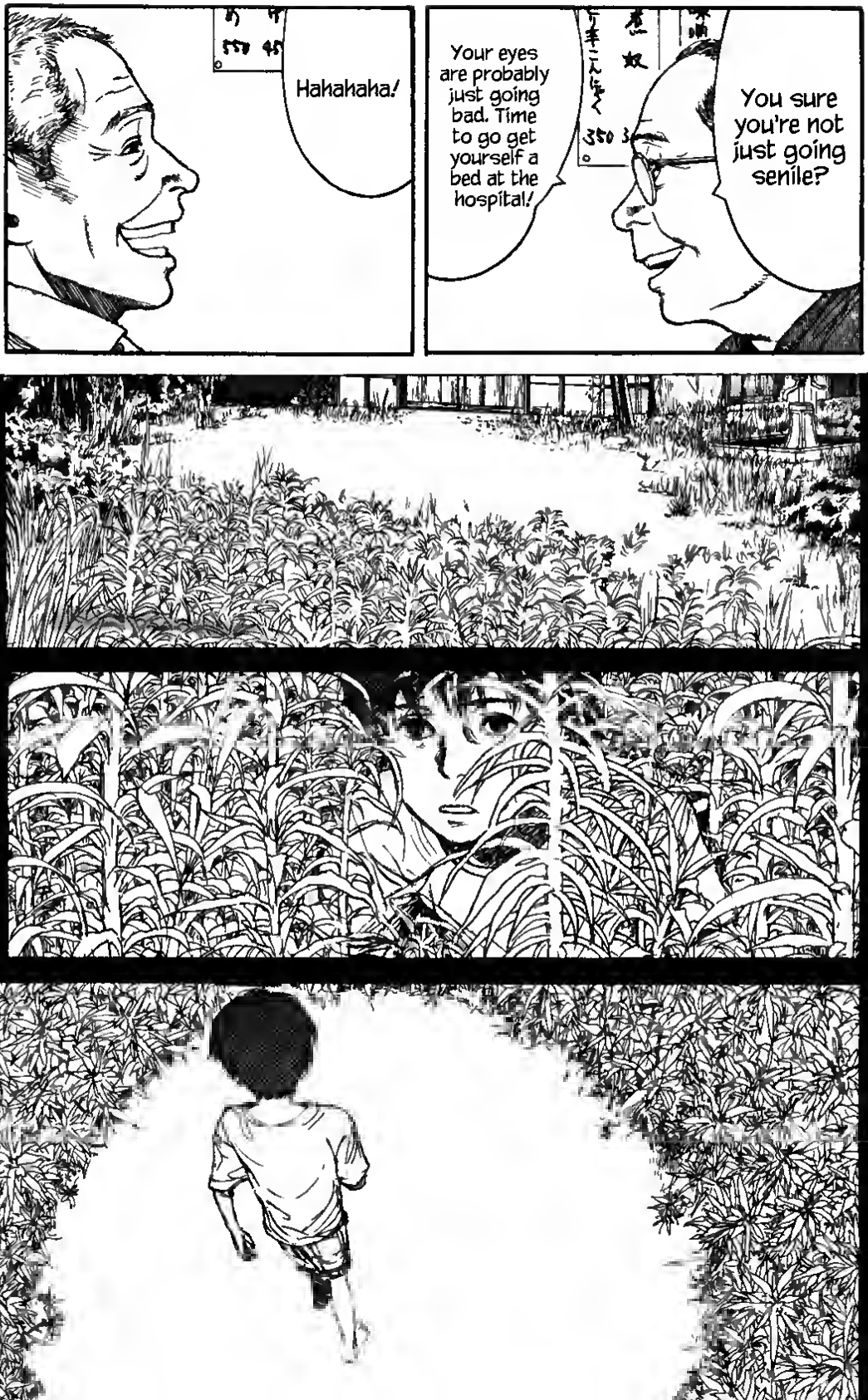

Well, I did tell her not to worry about me if there were any good prospects.


When I asked him, he said he remembers.
But he was only a year old back then.
What? Really?
You know, Takashi said that he remembers Takahiro.

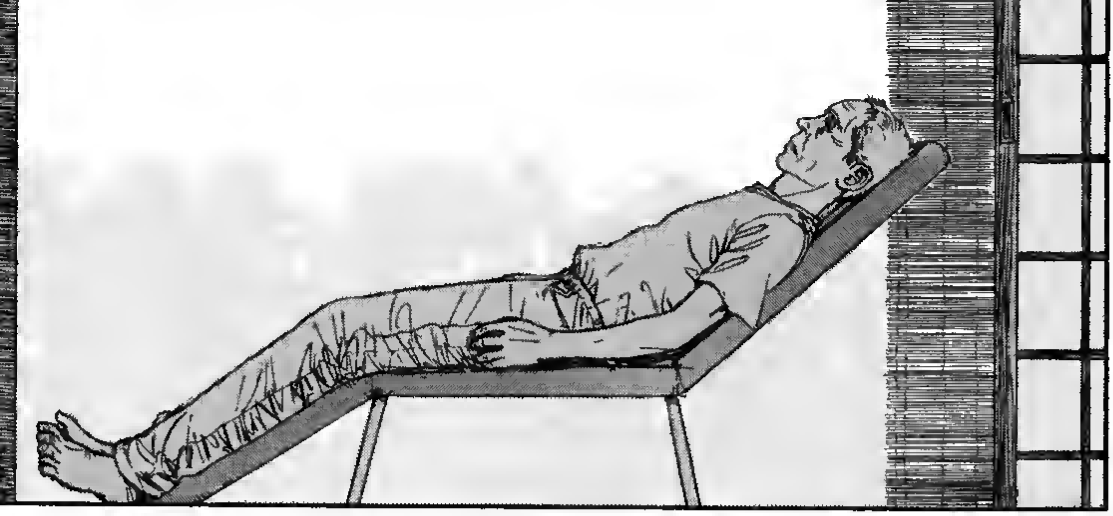
We're talking tears? No piss in your pants?
Hey, when you wake up... Do you ever... find tears in your eyes— and you don't know why?
Yeah, tears, from your eyes.
Nah, never happened to me.

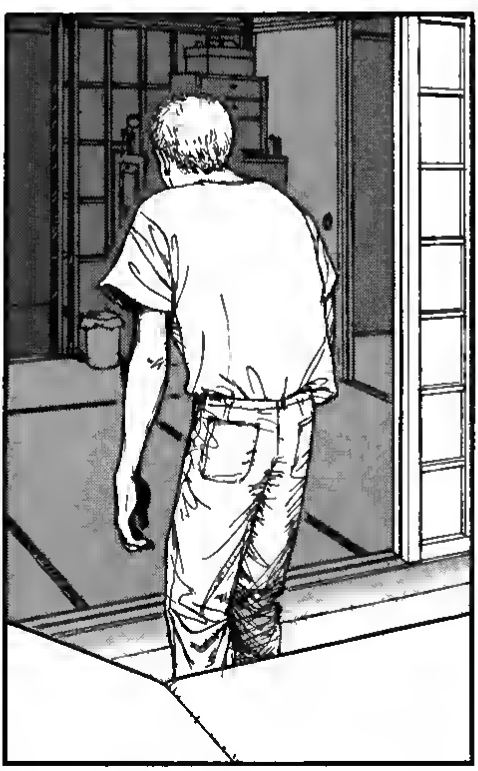
リン!

But if I ask him about it too much, he gets upset, so I don't know what to make of it.
リン!


You sure you're not just going senile?
Your eyes are probably just going bad. Time to go get yourself a bed at the hospital!
Hahahaha!

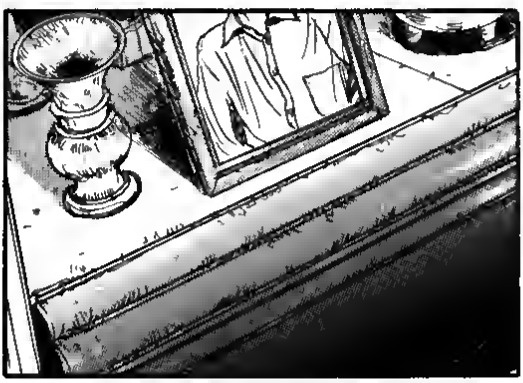
Don't leave me behind!
Wait for me!
Wait!
Wa–



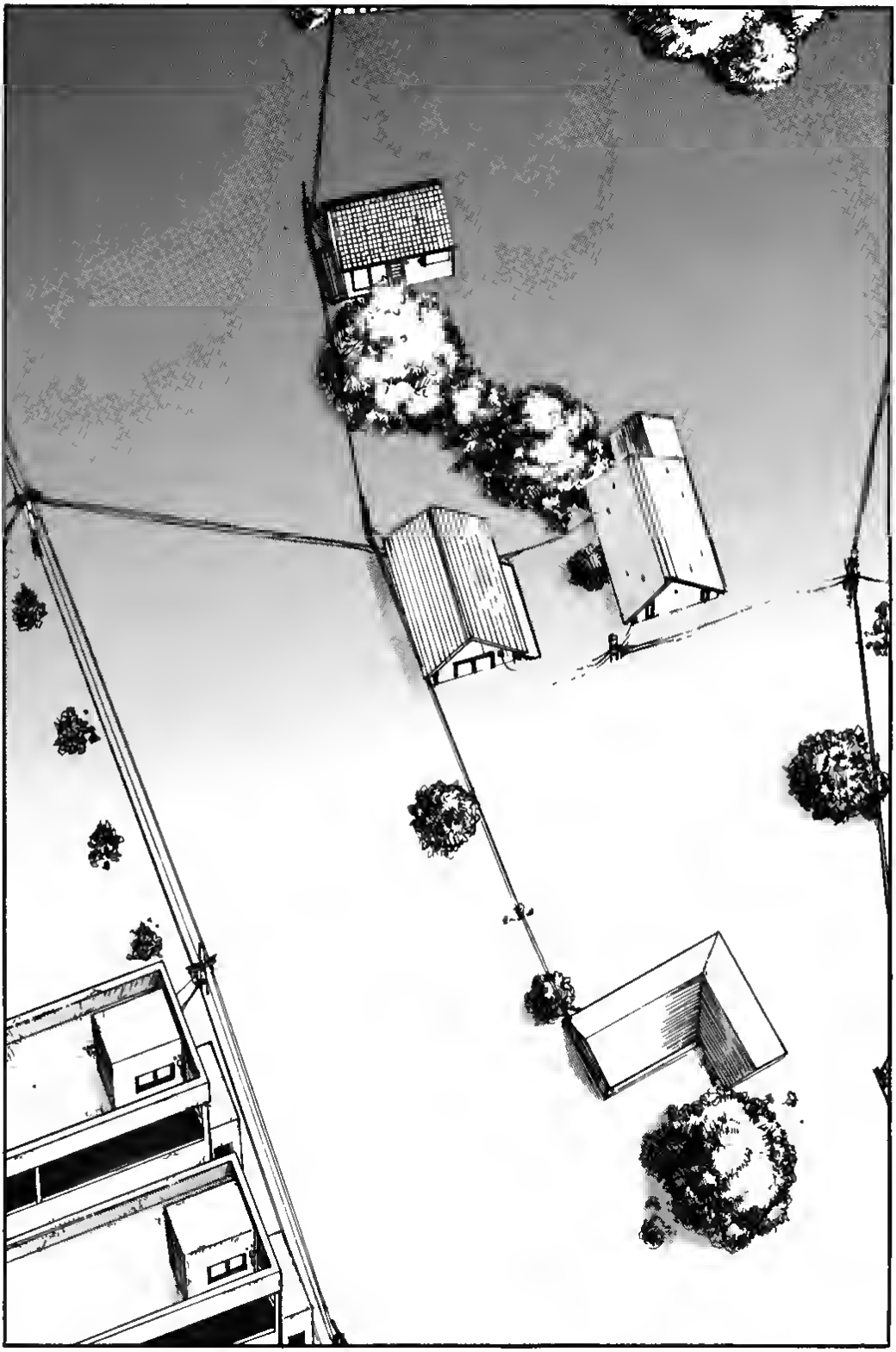


Is anyone around?

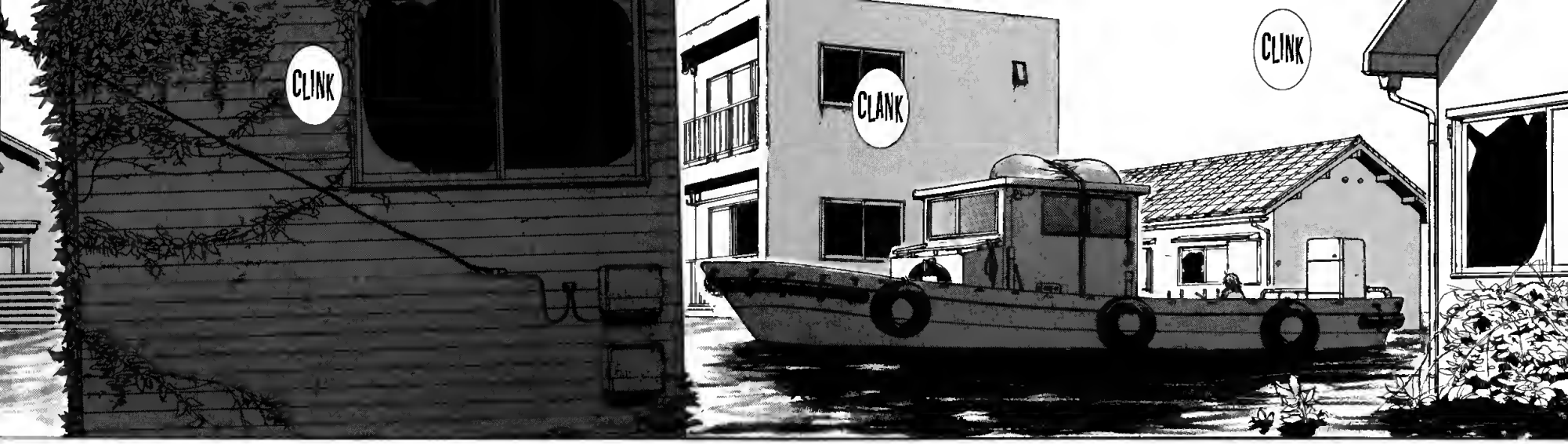
Hello?



Anyone?



Chapter 15 Lost in the Flood


CLINK
CLANK
CLINK

CLINK

CLINK
CLANK
CLANK

CLINK
CLANK
CLINK

Hey—
Can't freakin' believe we're running outta gas way out here...

Shit, we ain't gonna make it.
Dammit!

Coffee.
What? What is it?

It smells like coffee.

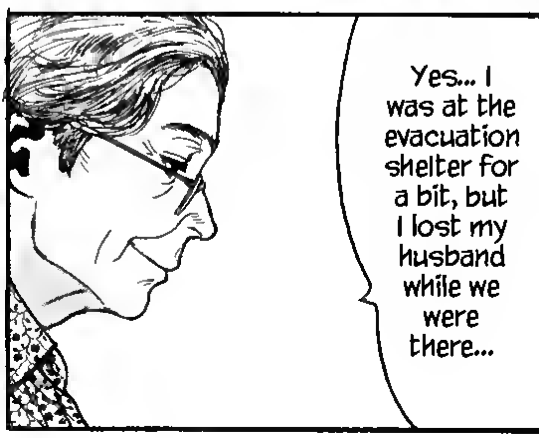
I've got guests!
Oh my! Fancy that!

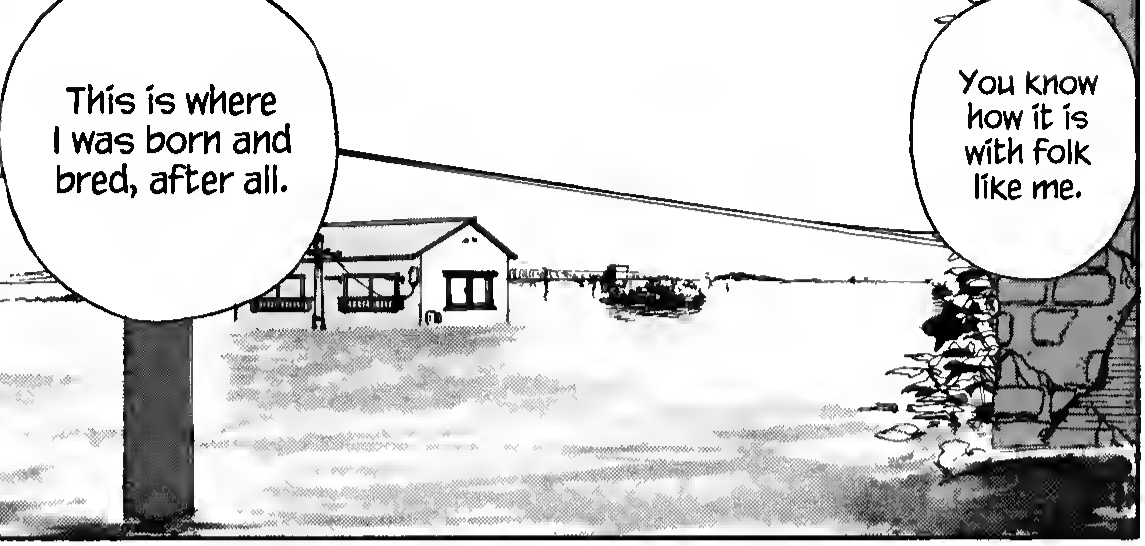
Here you go, boys. Drink up while it's hot.

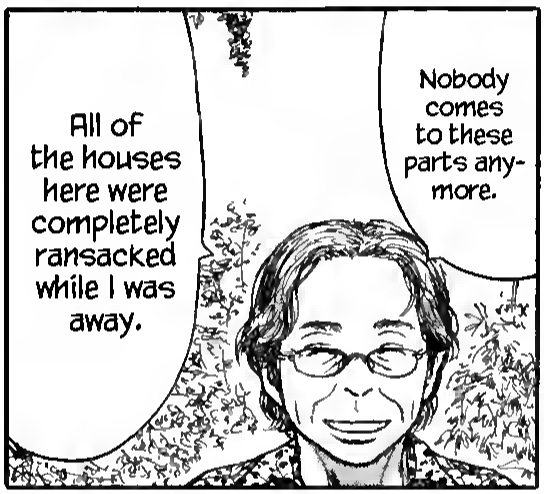
Good thing I had some cups left to serve you with.
...Thank you.

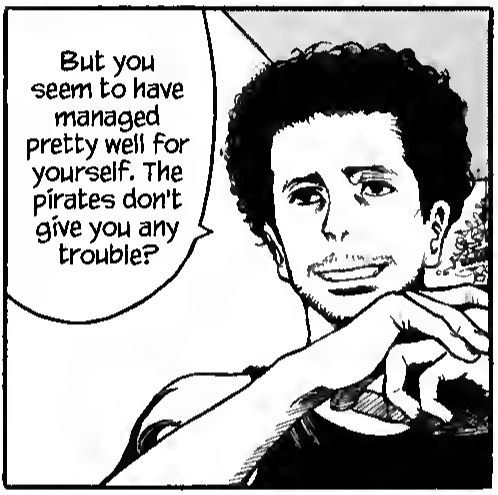
And my dear friend passed away in the medical center too. I didn't have anyone I knew over there anymore...
So I came back over here last year.

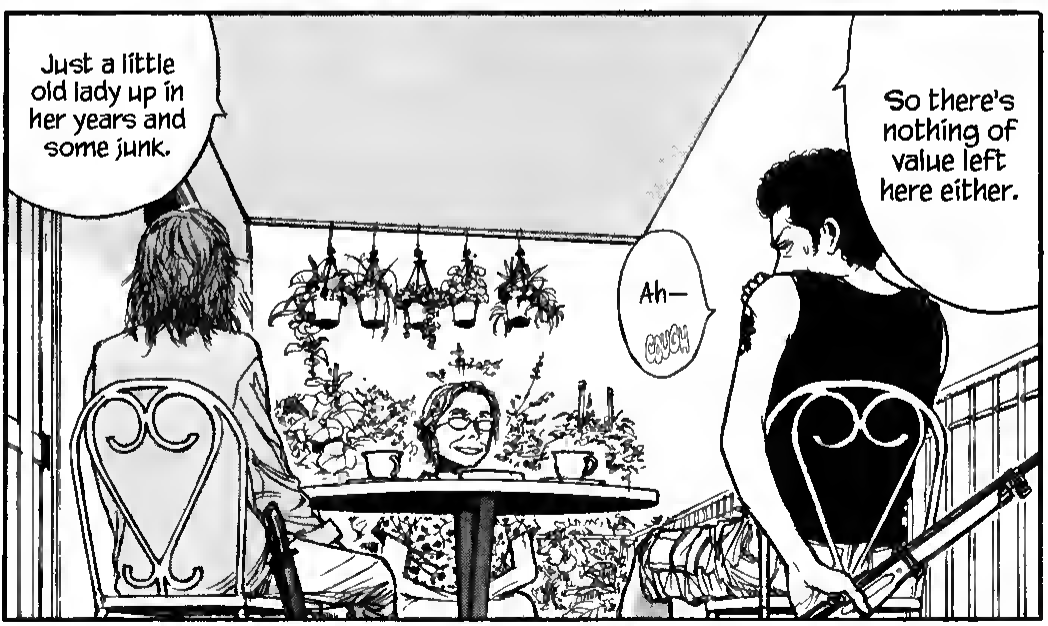
Have you been living here by yourself all this time?


Yes... I was at the evacuation shelter for a bit, but I lost my husband while we were there...

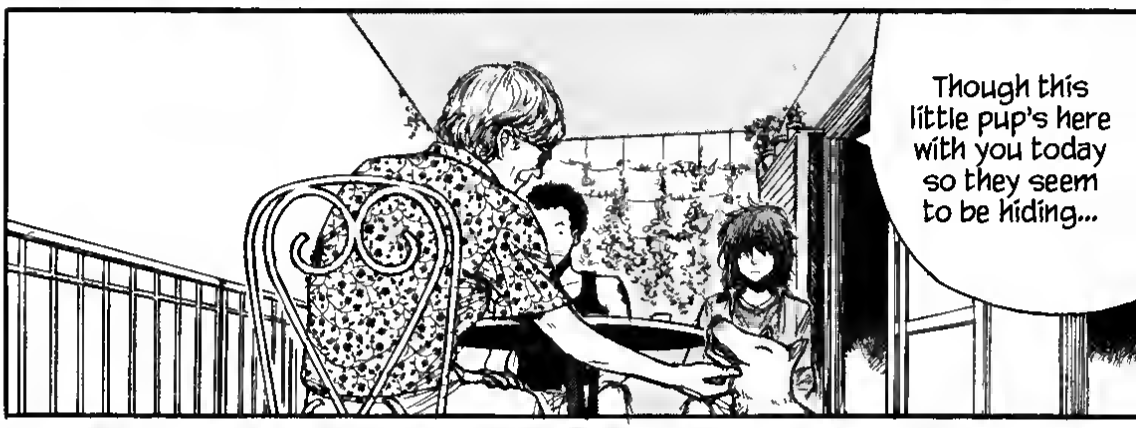

This is where I was born and bred, after all.
You know how it is with folk like me.

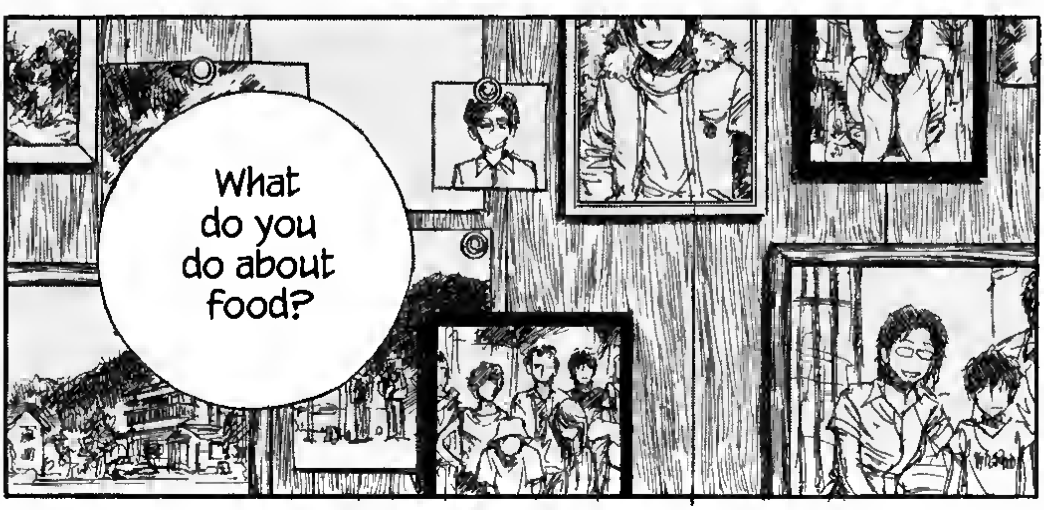

All of the houses here were completely ransacked while I was away.
Nobody comes to these parts anymore.

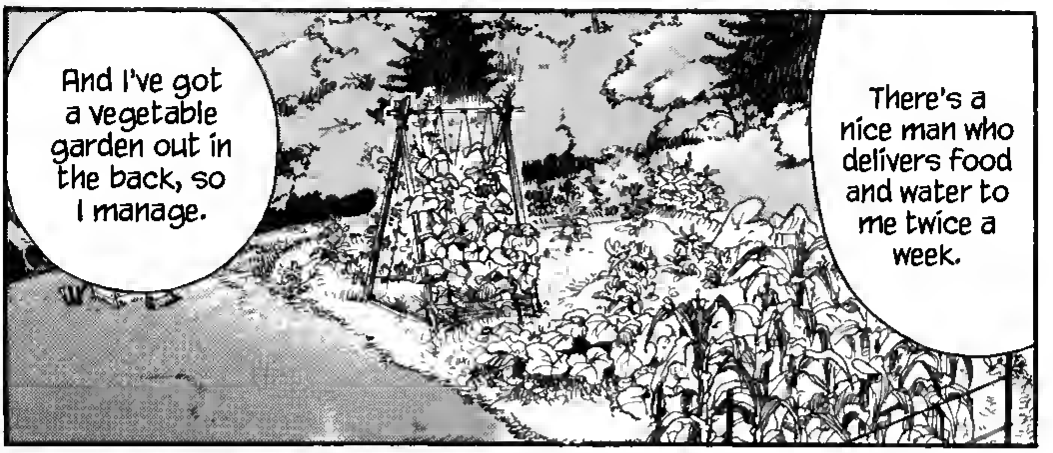

But you seem to have managed pretty well for yourself. The pirates don't give you any trouble?

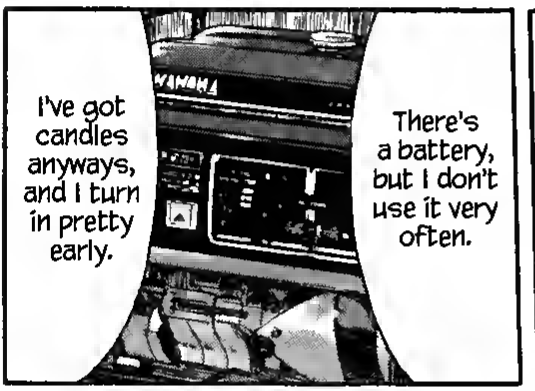

Just a little old lady up in her years and some junk.
Ah—
ouch
So there's nothing of value left here either.

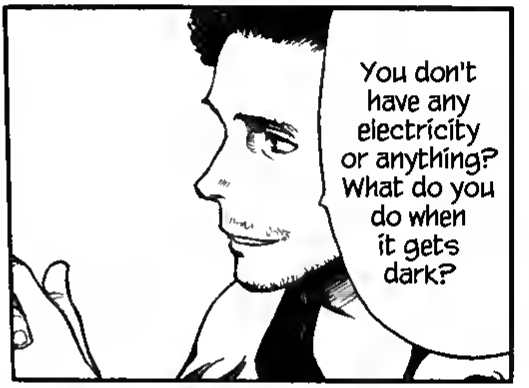
I live together with my two cats, Merry and Maru.
Well, dear, I'm not really all by myself.
Isn't it lonely always being by yourself?

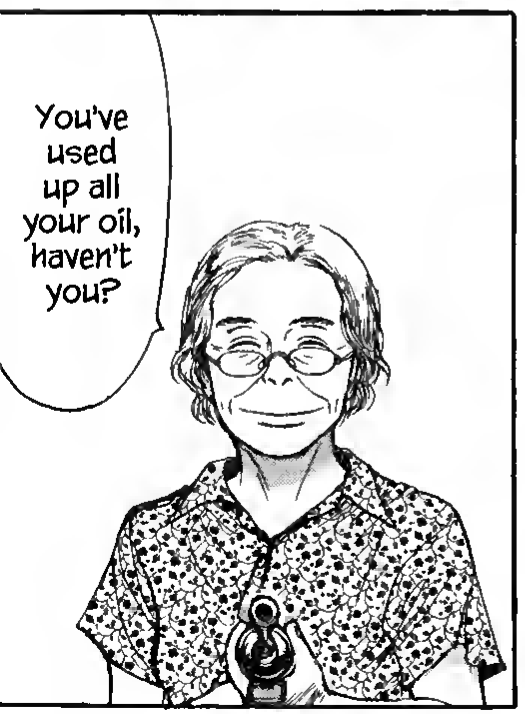

Though this little pup's here with you today so they seem to be hiding...


What do you do about food?

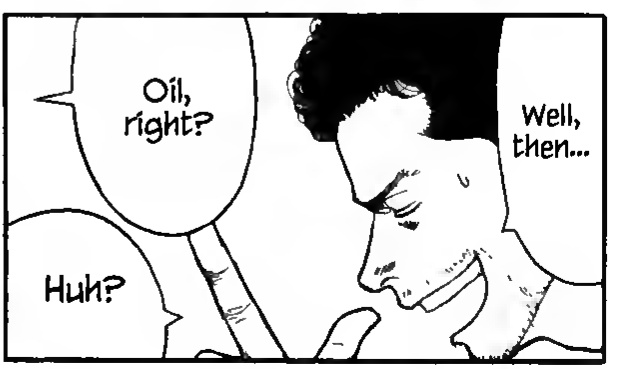

And I've got a vegetable garden out in the back, so I manage.
There's a nice man who delivers food and water to me twice a week.


I've got candles anyways, and I turn in pretty early.
There's a battery, but I don't use it very often.


You don't have any electricity or anything? What do you do when it gets dark?

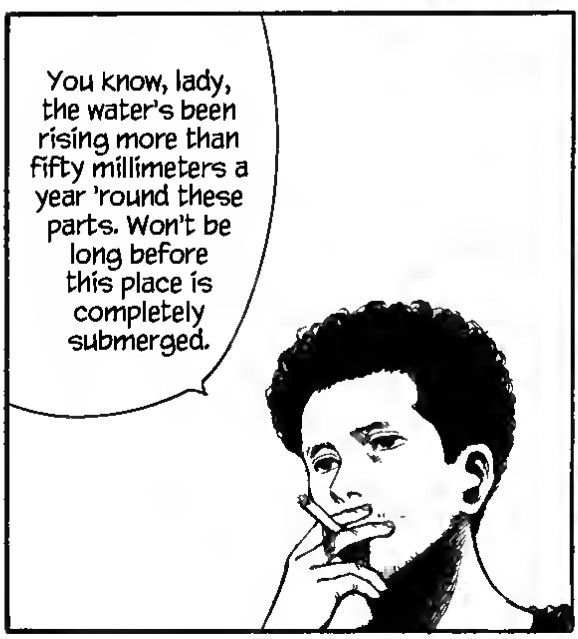

You've used up all your oil, haven't you?

You don't say...
Hmmm
Oh, a battery, huh...


Oil, right?
Huh?
Well, then...

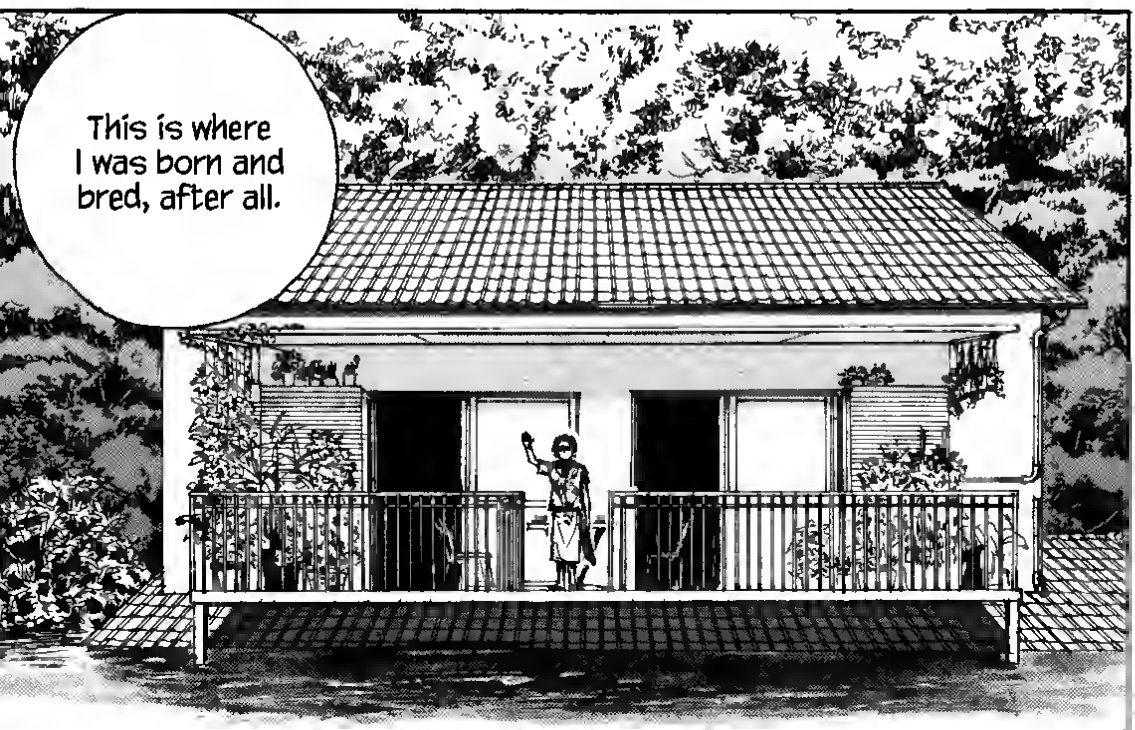
Thank God you were here. I didn't see anywhere else to refill, so we probably would've been stranded.
Oh, no. The pleasure was all mine.

WA-HA-HA!
You did buy it from me for three times the going rate.
Hohoho!


You know, lady, the water's been rising more than fifty millimeters a year 'round these parts. Won't be long before this place is completely submerged.

If you like, I could take you there on my boat...
The cam[illegible] are pretty different from how they were back then— a lot easier to live in now.
If you've got your pension card, you can even receive some social support.

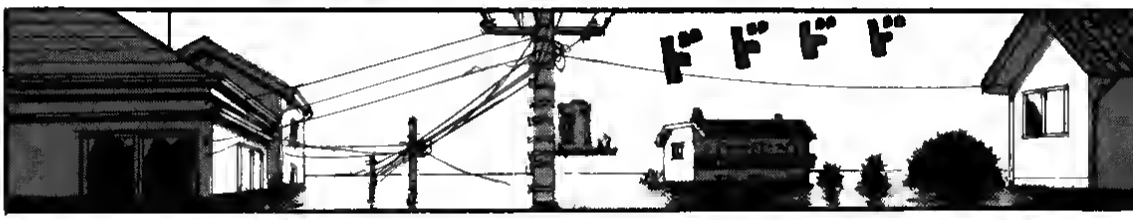
Thank you kindly for the offer, but I've made up my mind to stay here.


This is where I was born and bred, after all.

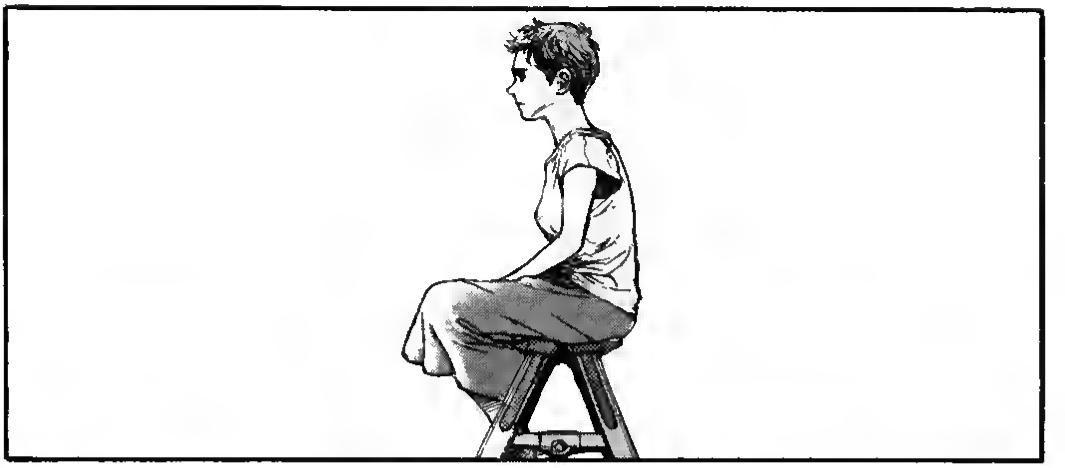
Hey, kid, do you know the place where you were born?

Me? It was...

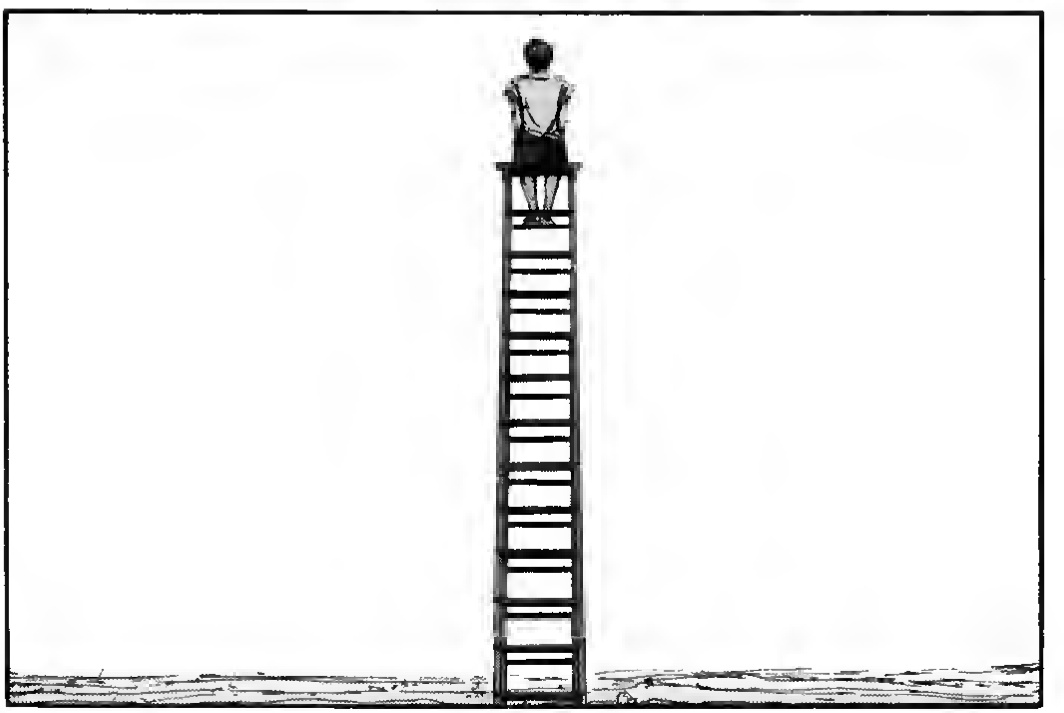
She took us for a ride and we didn't even get anything good out of it!
God dammit! That damn hag! Taking advantage of people like that!!
トドドドドド


ドドドド

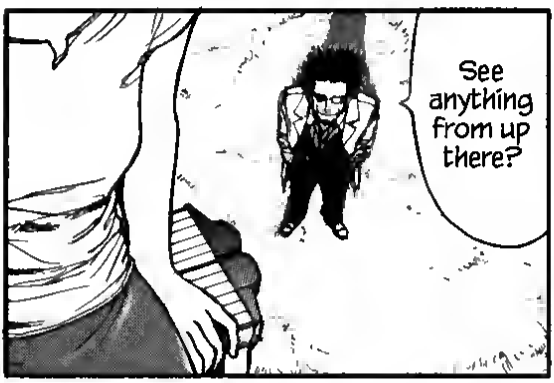
I was born on the sea.
The sea.



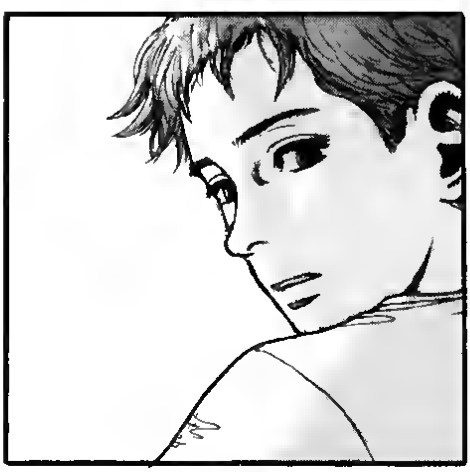
Chapter 16 The Lying Doctor

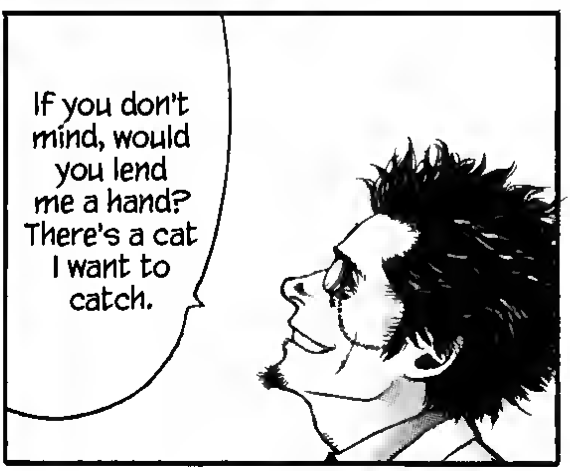


Hey—


See anything from up there?

Nothing at all.
No.



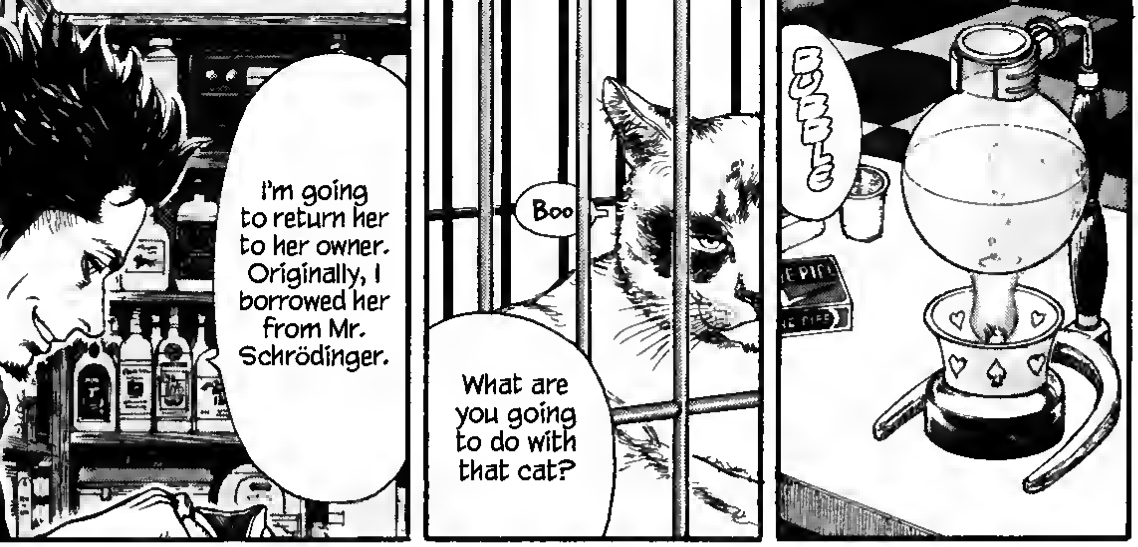

If you don't mind, would you lend me a hand? There's a cat I want to catch.

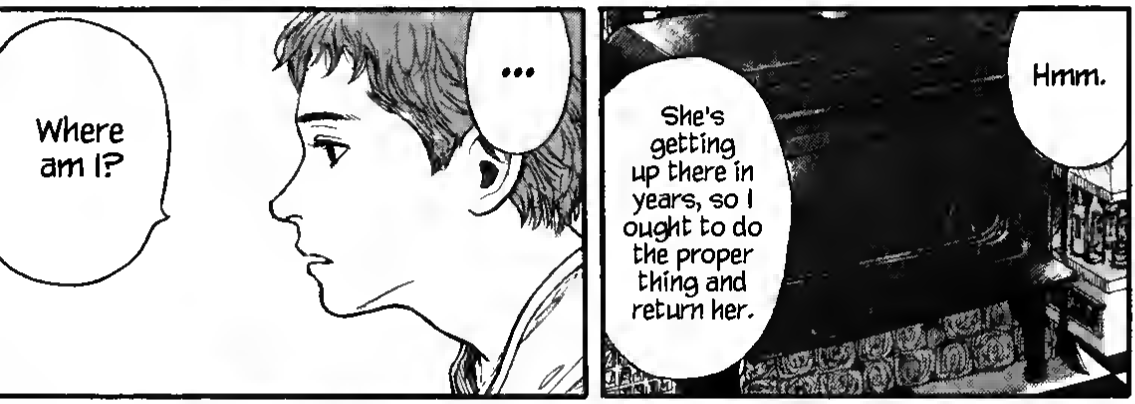
I was thinking that, since it isn't in the house, it's probably hiding somewhere around here. Could you see if you can find it?
ゴト…

Um...
Hm?
I'll be working my way back from the opposite side, so let's try to trap her in a pincer attack.
Kiki...
It's Kiki.
What's the cat's name?
Kiki-chaaan—

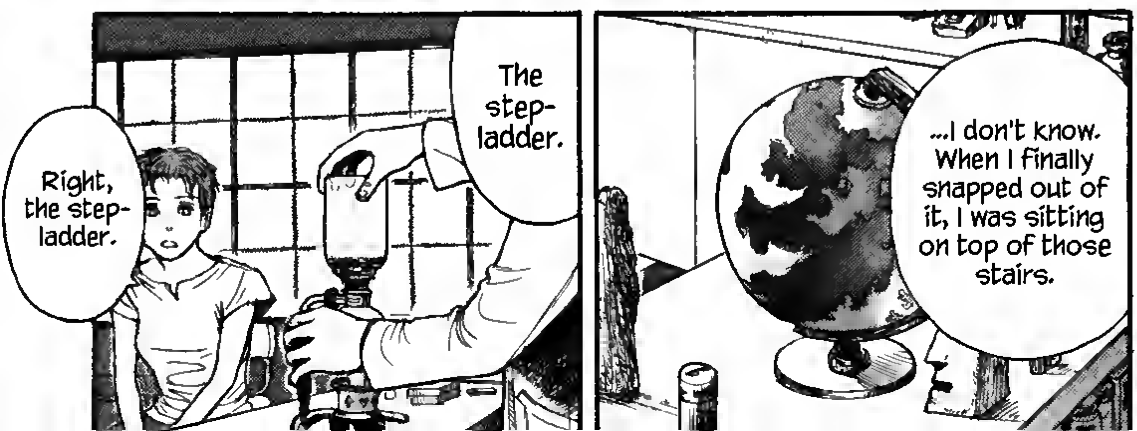
Kikiiiii...
Kiki-
chaaan—
Oh.

Here we go.
ガタッ!!
Come over here.
Here, Kiki-chan.
Meow
Whoa!
ズルッ!!
Come onnnn...
Ahhh!
ガラガラガラ
ガタッ!!
Just take a seat for a bit; I'll go make some coffee.
ペタ
Ah, I'm really sorry about that. But thanks to you, I'm in the clear.

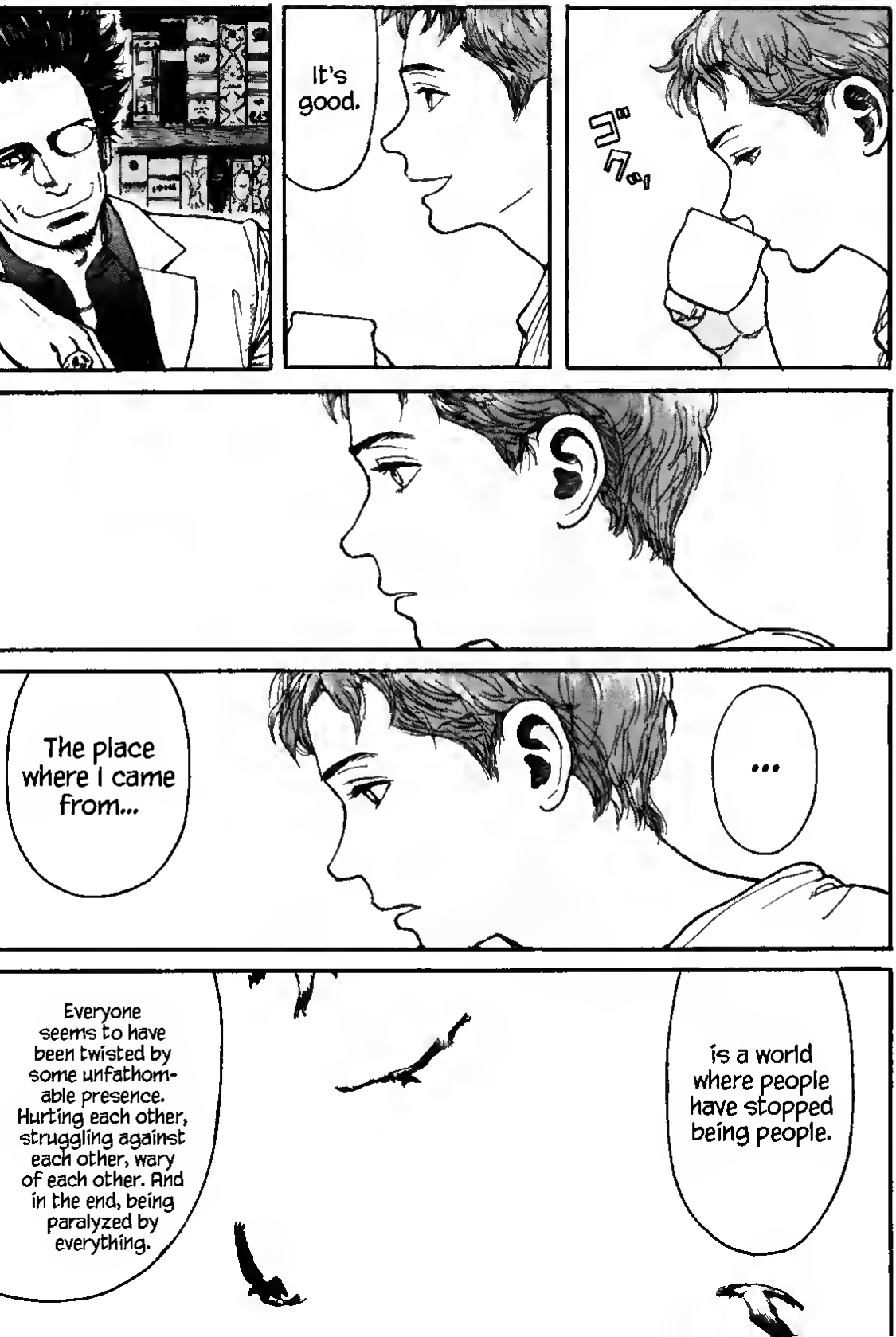

I'm going to return her to her owner. Originally, I borrowed her from Mr. Schrödinger.
Boo
What are you going to do with that cat?
BUBBLE


Where am I?
...
She's getting up there in years, so I ought to do the proper thing and return her.
Hmm.

Where did you come from?

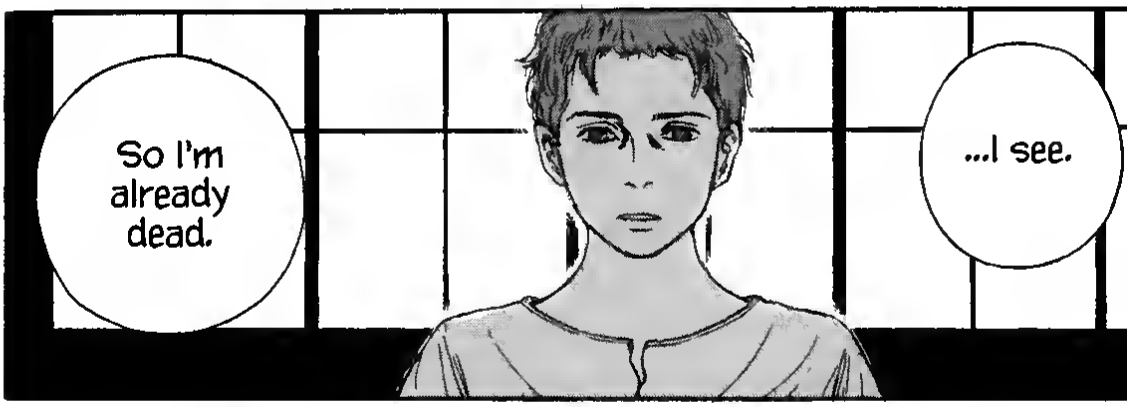

Right, the step-ladder.
The step-ladder.
...I don't know. When I finally snapped out of it, I was sitting on top of those stairs.

Me? I'm Pier Paolo Pasolini the third. Also known as "the lying doctor."
Who are you?
I've lied that I've created a time machine, I've lied that I've proved Riemann's hypothesis, and I've lied that the world has ended.
Because I'm always lying, of course!
Why "the lying doctor?"
TUP TUP TUP TUP
...Hasn't it?
Here you go.


It's good.
ゴクッ
The place where I came from...
...
Everyone seems to have been twisted by some unfathomable presence. Hurting each other, struggling against each other, wary of each other. And in the end, being paralyzed by everything.
is a world where people have stopped being people.

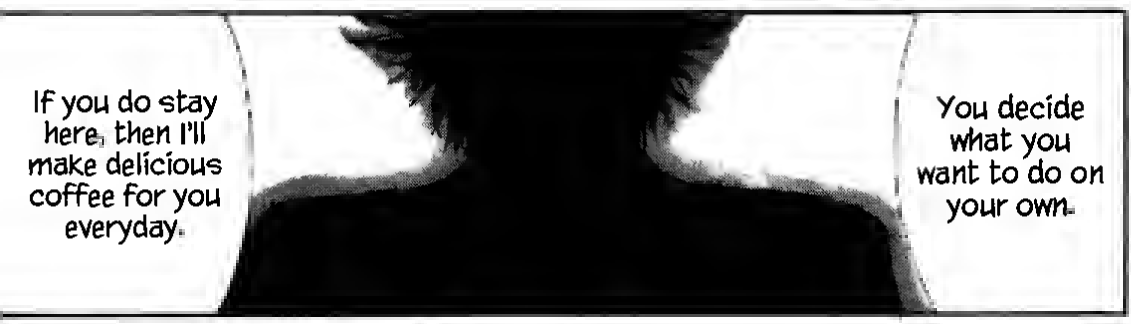
...Humans will always be humans. No matter how much they change.

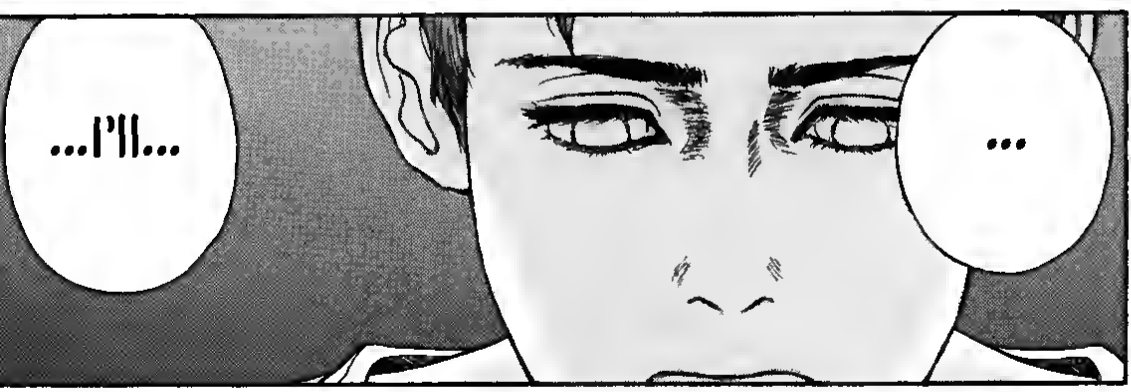
If you wish to remain here, you may. You'll come to no harm here.
This is a dead world. A place where things neither change nor move, but rather where everything is merely silent.

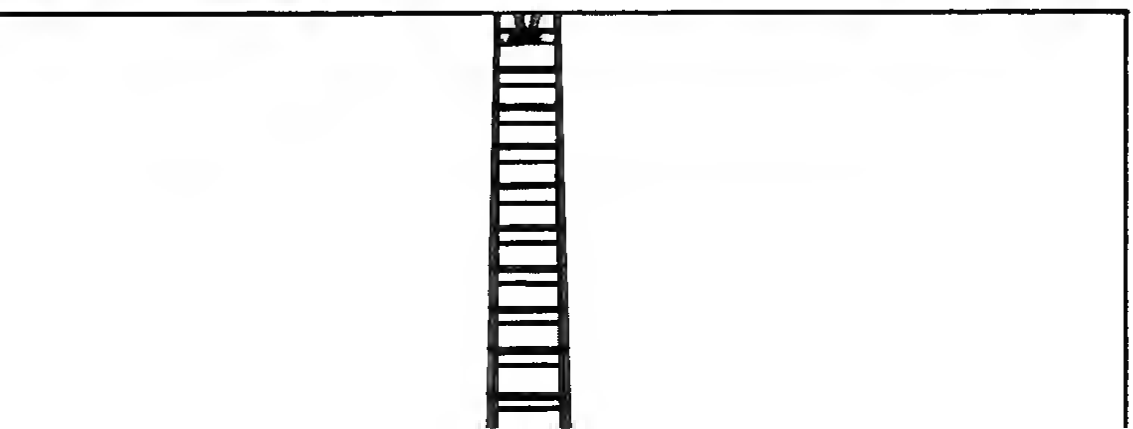

So I'm already dead.
...I see.

Their friends, their music, their pet cat, or their potted plants... Just like that, leaving behind the things that they love, even if just faintly.
Sometimes people like you end up slipping through. People who have lost hope in the world.
You aren't dead, but you're not exactly alive either. That stepladder is the buffer between the two.

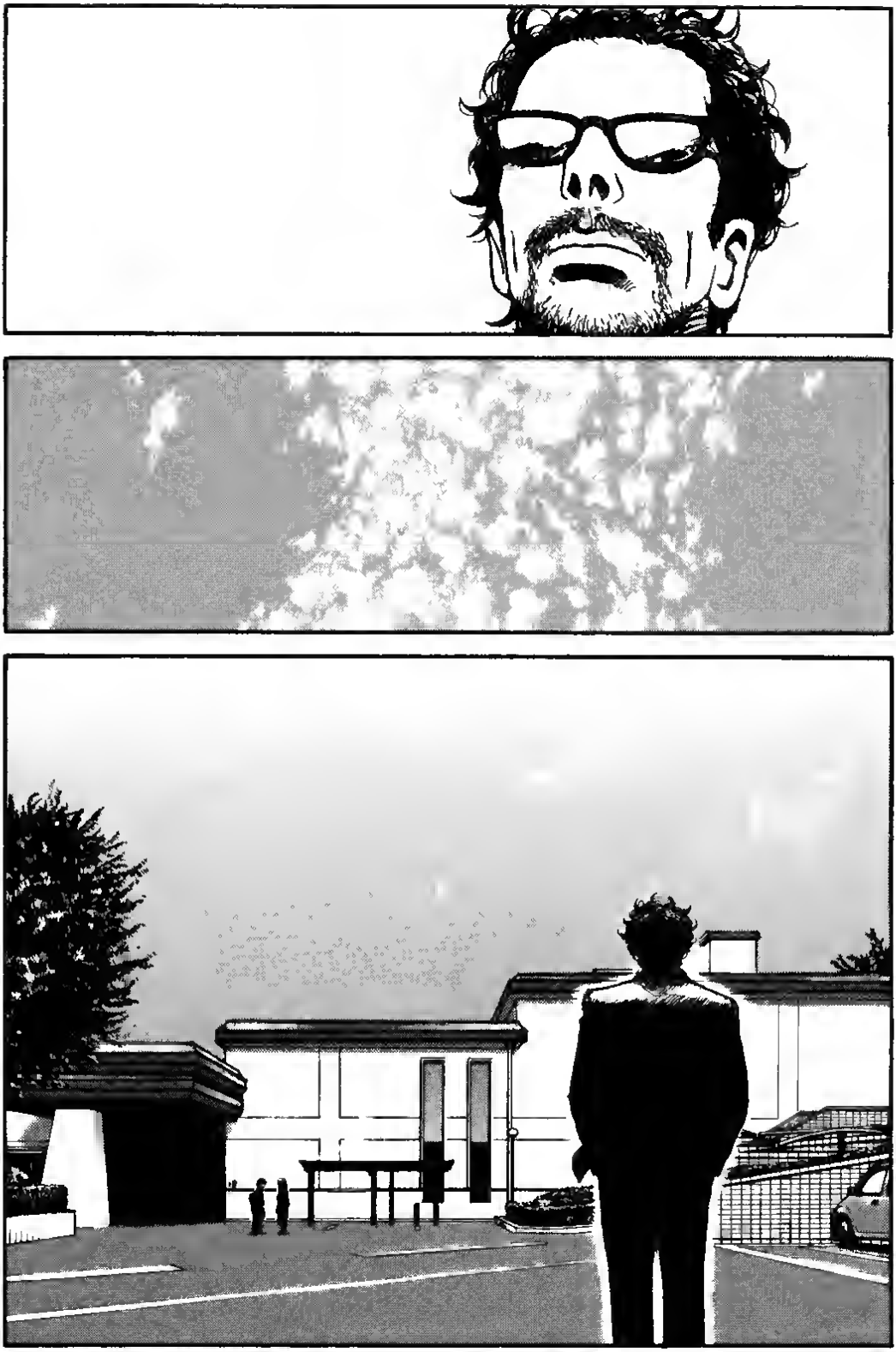
That is both the entrance and the exit here. And if the stepladder disappears, then that's the end of it.
If you want to return to whence you came, all you have to do is jump from on top of that stepladder.


If you do stay here, then I'll make delicious coffee for you everyday.
You decide what you want to do on your own.


...I'll...
...



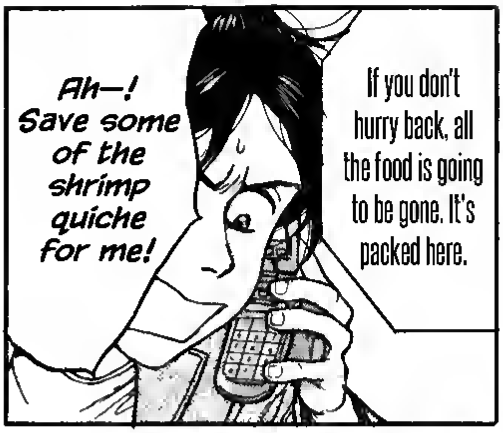
Chapter 16 END

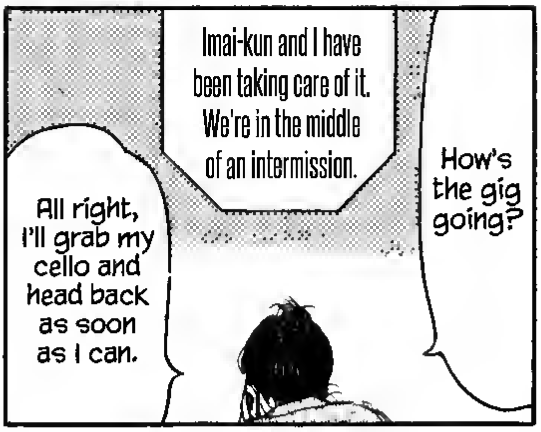


Chapter 17 Any Day Now

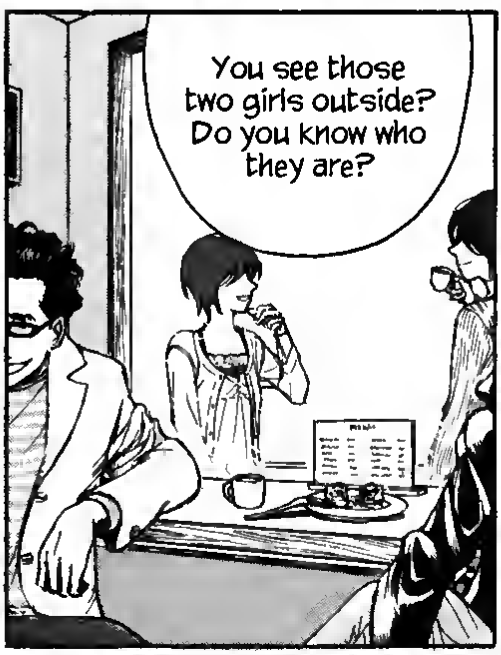
CAFE
STRUM
MIJINCO 30th
ANNIV
パチ
パチパチ
OPEN
開店30周年記念
パチパチ
Huh? Natsumi-chan's still not here yet?
She said her instrument vanished off somewhere.
Seems like she asked Shouta-kun to bring it over.

Hey— Hello! It's me!
Hello there.
Oh, speak of the devil.
DRRRR
That idiot must have left my cello at Msica by mistake.
I got a call from the owner over there, so I'm headed that way now.
Ah— No, he's not here yet.
Has Shouta turned up over there?
He's also shut off his cellphone, so I can't get in contact with him.
Nothing, I was talking to someone over here.
Huh? What's that?
Okay, okay, okay! Sorry.
You on the bike, pull over if you want to make a phone call.
ブォー


Ah—! Save some of the shrimp quiche for me!
If you don't hurry back, all the food is going to be gone. It's packed here.


How's the gig going?
Imai-kun and I have been taking care of it. We're in the middle of an intermission.
All right, I'll grab my cello and head back as soon as I can.

I apologize for having you help me like this.
No, no,
if I can take care of my tab this way, then by all means.


You see those two girls outside? Do you know who they are?

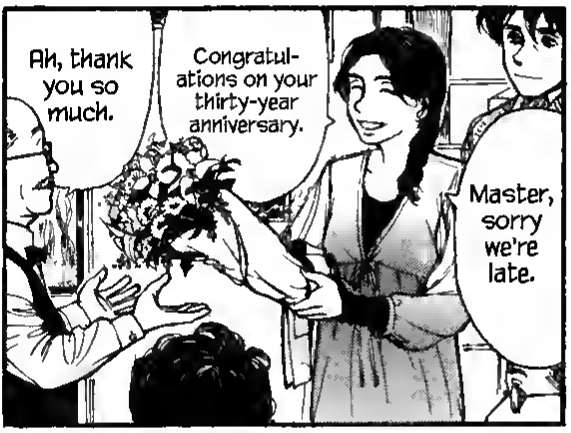
Two café lattes, please.
Okayyy.
Hey, Yamazaki-san,
Hm? What is it?

Maybe I should go say hello.
What? But she's probably a high-schooler!
Ahh, that's Harumi-chan. She's with her aunt.
Hmm, Harumi-chan, huh...?
Jeez, what a kid.
It's good to be young.
So? All I'm doing is just saying hello.
Ah— Hey!
Besides, don't you already have a crush on that girl from the game store!?
What? He took it and left!?
By the way... What did you say the name of the aunt was?
msica

You've got a gig here next week.
See you later!!
Yuuup!
He had this look on his face like someone was going to kill him.
He just left. He was in a hurry, and packed it in his car, saying he got the place wrong.
Arghh hhhhh!
Dammiiiit! Making me run all over the place and waste all this effort!
Hah
Hah
Hah
Uhh, t-the v-venue is Magic, r-right?
Yes? Hello!
Ah, i-it's Shouta! I-I-I'm really s-sorry!
Incoming Call
Pay Phone

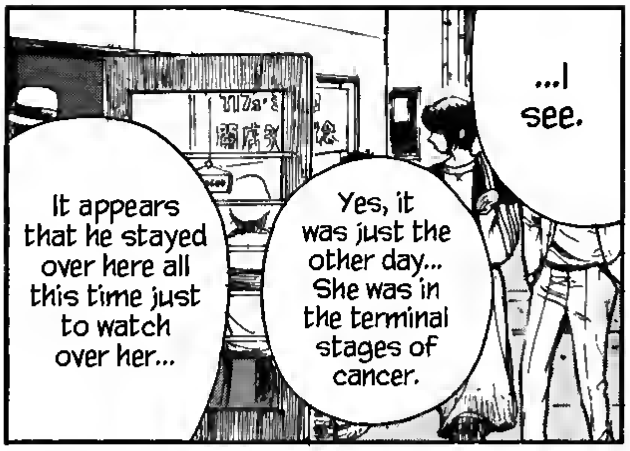
All right already! Hurry up! Get over there, right now!!
CAW
I-I'm so sorryyy!!!
I haven't even had anything to eat yet! If there's no more quiche left, you're paying for my food!
Ahhhhhhh! I-I'm s-sorry!
YOU STUPID IDIOT!
MIJINCO! IT'S MIJINCO! WHAT THE HELL KINDA EARS HAVE YOU GOT!?

Another Guatemala
Okay
Order whatever you want; it's on the house today.
Okay, then I'll have a milk tea and an espresso.


Ah, thank you so much.
Congratulations on your thirty-year anniversary.
Master, sorry we're late.

Well, it seems like his mother passed away.

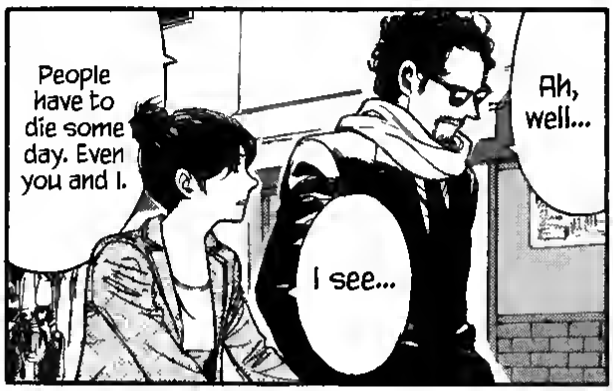
Yeah, that's the one. Did he already head back home?
Oh yeah, isn't that fellow going to show up? That Italian movie director.
Ahh, Morelli-san?
No, it looks like he's still here, but...


...I see.
Yes, it was just the other day... She was in the terminal stages of cancer.
It appears that he stayed over here all this time just to watch over her...

Hehehe. she gave me her e-mail address.
...You're really something else, kid.
Oh, what's up?
Ah, here you go.
Pickles, please!

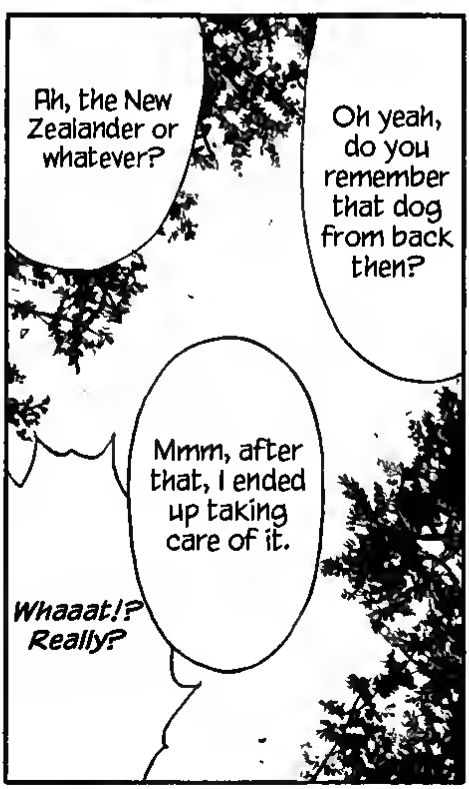
That so...

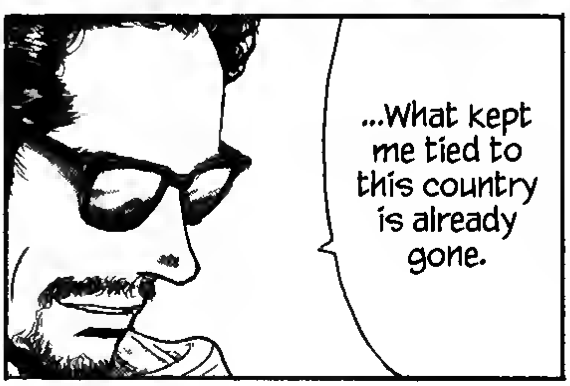
Mmm, I've been here all this time.
You're still in Japan!?
I just happened to see you riding this way from over there.
Hey there, it's been a while.
Mr. Director!


People have to die some day. Even you and I.
I see...
Ah, well...

Did somebody pass away?
...

Huh? Why? Why don't you just stay here in Japan?
And, well, I'm about to head back to Italy.


Ah, the New Zealander or whatever?
Oh yeah, do you remember that dog from back then?
Mmm, after that, I ended up taking care of it.
Whaaat!? Really?


...What kept me tied to this country is already gone.

Oh! That's right!
By the way, where were you heading to?
That's too bad... Then I guess I'll take him back to Italy with me.
What!? I'm not allowed to keep a dog in my apartment.
So, how about it? Why don't you keep him over at your place?
Huh!? Hold on!
All right then, I'll come with, give me a lift.
Don't worry about it, it'll be fine.
What?
They're having a party at Mijinco in honor of its thirtieth anniversary. I was supposed to put on a concert there, but...
Hah
Hah
I lived there until my parents got divorced. I was ten when that happened.
I was born in Kobe, in a city named Suma.
キーコ
キーコ

There was nowhere I belonged. Only in the cinemas did I feel at home. There, I studied all sorts of things.
My father took custody of me. When I went to Italy, I thought my mother had abandoned me.

Hah
Hah
Hah

A cup of coffee and a song in your heart, that's what true comfort in life is.
Man, you're so seriously heavy!
What is it that we need in life? What sustains us for tomorrow? Wine and spirits? Passion and love? Gold and riches? Nay, those are all too strong. I believe it is but one cup of coffee.

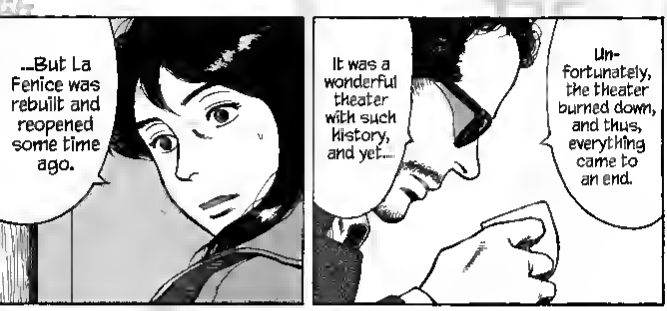
Because, you see, we never know when we might die!
Come on, you pedal, let's trade!
Well, that's where we're headed, right!?
Now then, let's go drink some coffee right now!

HAHA HAHA!
Haha ha!
Why won't you stop talking!?
Because, you see, life passes us by in a blink of an eye!
So let's go drink some coffee!

TRANSLATION NOTES PAGE 01

Page 06
Robusta Vs Arabica Beans:
Robusta beans are more bitter, hence the need for more sweeteners and additives. According to a resident Italian, the tidbit about Italians drinking Robusta beans isn't true, though.

Furthermore, I think the Japanese are especially sensitive to the bland taste of additives, such as inosinic acid and glutamic acid, so they drink it straight to enjoy the natural flavors of the raw ingredients.
However, many Japanese people drink their coffee straight, and I think that's because they use arabica coffee beans.
Oh, so you're Italian.
We Italians enjoy drinking strong roasted coffee with milk and sugar, but that is mainly because we use robusta coffee beans.


...But La Fenice was rebuilt and reopened some time ago.
It was a wonderful theater with such history, and yet...
Unfortunately, the theater burned down, and thus, everything came to an end.

Page 09
La Fenice:
This Venetian theater's name means 'Phoenix'. As that suggests, it has burned down and been rebuilt more than once, most recently in 1996 (reopened in 2004).

Page 11
Pasolini, Antonioni, Visconti:
Three famous Italian movie directors: La Fenice was actually rebuilt in 2004 with reference to Visconti's film, Senso, part of which was filmed there.

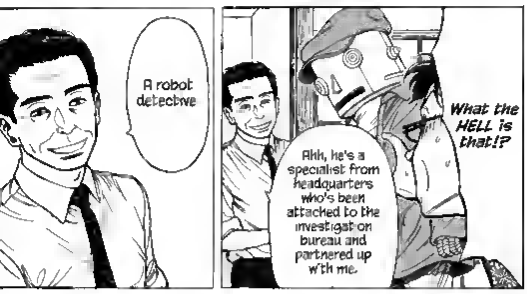
Page 30
Gâteau:
This pâtisserie's name means 'Cake' in French.

Page 37
Matsudaira Ken:
A middle-aged actor with a fanbase of middle-aged housewives. Now you know why the aunt looked like that when she was correcting Harumi.

Matsuyama Kenichi:
L in the live-action Death Note movies.

Matsuda Ryuuhei:
Another young actor, best known for his role in a 1999 film about a gay samurai.

TRANSLATION NOTES PAGE 02


A robot detective
What the HELL is that!?
Ahh, he's a specialist from headquarters who's been attached to the investigation bureau and partnered up with me.

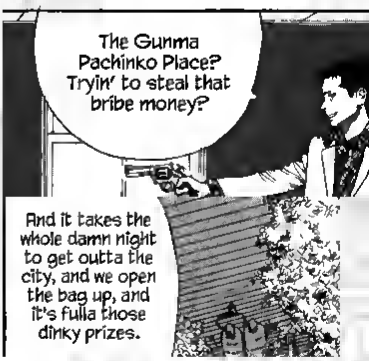
Page 41
The Robot Detective is based on a famous Japanese superhero TV series called, you guessed it, Robot Detective. Whether or not he has a polygraph in his mouth is something you'll have to watch the series to find out.

Page 50
The "-yama" in Tooyama means "Mountain"; the cops commenting on his cave-in and collapse seem to be a pun on that. It doesn't translate well.

Page 62
The **Japan Automobile Federation** and **American Automobile Association** provide emergency roadside services within their respective countries. Just an FYI.

Page 67
Eyeballin':
The pun (目分量 eyeballing /手分量 hand measuring) doesn't work well in English, since we couldn't think of anything that sounded much like 'eyeballing' and would be easily understood to mean the same thing.

Page 70
Pachinko prizes:
Gambling is illegal in Japan. Pachinko is gambling. They get around this by letting you trade in the pachinko balls for small prizes at the pachinko parlor, which you then take around the corner to an "exchange store", where they buy the prizes from you at favorable prices... Unless, of course, you've just stolen them from the affiliated pachinko parlor.

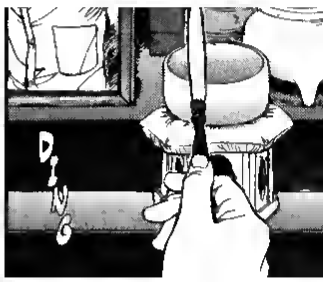

The Gunma Pachinko Place? Tryin' to steal that bribe money?
And it takes the whole damn night to get outta the city, and we open the bag up, and it's fulla those dinky prizes.

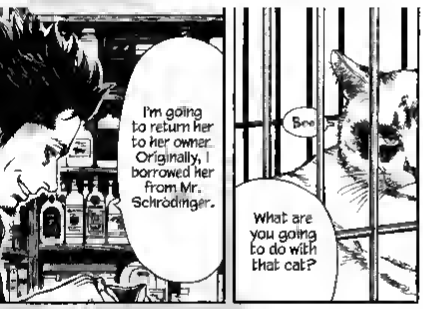
Page 88 - Page 98
The old man is speaking in a Touhoku dialect, from the northeastern part of the main island (Touhoku means "northeast"). The Touhoku dialect can differ so dramatically from standard Japanese that it is sometimes rendered with subtitles. It is considered by some southern inhabitants of Japan to be a slow and "clumsy" dialect with connotations of dawdling or idleness.
A quasi-Southern accent seemed to fit.
I chose not to subtitle it, though.

TRANSLATION NOTES PAGE 03

Page 135
Relating to the chapter title. Toyoda Tetsuya's notes from page 137: The subtitle for this chapter, "Chotto Matte Kure (Chopped Tomato Puree)" was taken from the title of Imawano Kiyoshiro's song. I couldn't really think of a title and the next day I finally thought of it when I heard about his death on the radio. I couldn't believe it, all these different emotions rushed up, but it is hard to put into words. It's not like I was thinking about whether we should pray for his happiness in the next world, but rather that it's hard to believe that The Boss died before he turned into an old, shrivelled up geezer. This time, as usual, I turned in my manuscript late and I was spacing out, but the feeling that something happened that couldn't be undone wouldn't leave.

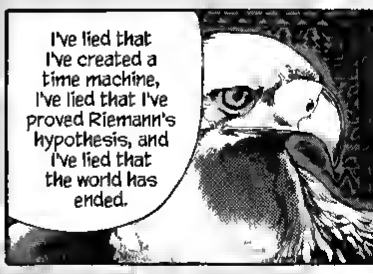
Page 161
The bowl that is being rung is called a rin gong or "singing bowl". It is part of the Butsudan, also known as the Buddha altar, which is a type of shrine that is found in both temples and houses. When rung the sound is very distinct. Other parts of the Butsudan can be seen during this chapter and include the photograph of the old man's son on page 170 and a portion of a sutra on the same page.




I'm going to return her to her owner. Originally, I borrowed her from Mr. Schrödinger.
Bro
What are you going to do with that cat?

Page 189
Schrödinger's Cat is a famous thought experiment in which the state of whether or not a cat is dead or alive depends on an earlier random event. When observed the cat in the box is clearly either alive or dead, but nevertheless it is in a state of both being alive and dead at the same time.

Page 190
The Riemann hypothesis is an unproven mathematics hypothesis that is concerned with prime numbers. It is part of the Millenium Prize Problems.


I've lied that I've created a time machine, I've lied that I've proved Riemann's hypothesis, and I've lied that the world has ended.

『珈琲時間』は、アフタヌーン'08年の7月号から'09年の2月号、4月号から12月号に掲載された作品を収録しました。

編集部では、この作品に対する皆様のご意見・ご感想をお待ちしております。

また、今後「アフタヌーンKC」にまとめてほしい作品がありましたら編集部までお知らせください。

※なお、お送りいただいたお手紙・おハガキは、ご記入いただいた個人情報を含めて著者にお渡しすることがありますので、あらかじめご了解のうえ、お送りください。

東京都文京区音羽二丁目十二番二十一号
〈郵便番号 一一二―八〇〇一〉
講談社「アフタヌーン」編集部
アフタヌーンKC係

★この物語はフィクションです。実在の人物,団体等とは関係ありません。

N.D.C. 726　206p　19cm

アフタヌーンKC―604
珈琲時間（コーヒーしかん）

二〇〇九年十二月二十二日　第一刷発行
二〇一〇年　六月　三日　第四刷発行
（定価はカバーに表示してあります）

著者　豊田徹也（とよだてつや）
発行者　清水保雅
発行所　株式会社　講談社
東京都文京区音羽二―一二―二一
郵便番号　一一二―八〇〇一
電話　編集部　東京(〇三)五三九五―三四六三
販売部　東京(〇三)五三九五―三六〇八
印刷所　凸版印刷株式会社
本文製版所　豊国印刷株式会社
製本所　株式会社フォーネット社

©Tetsuya Toyoda 2009
〔本書の無断複写(コピー)は著作権法上での例外を除き、禁じられています。〕
落丁本・乱丁本は購入書店名を明記のうえ、小社業務部宛にお送りください。送料小社負担にてお取り替えいたします(電話03-5395-3603)。なお、この本についてのお問い合わせはアフタヌーン編集部宛にお願いいたします。

ISBN978-4-06-310604-6　Printed in Japan

Coffee Time - Fin -